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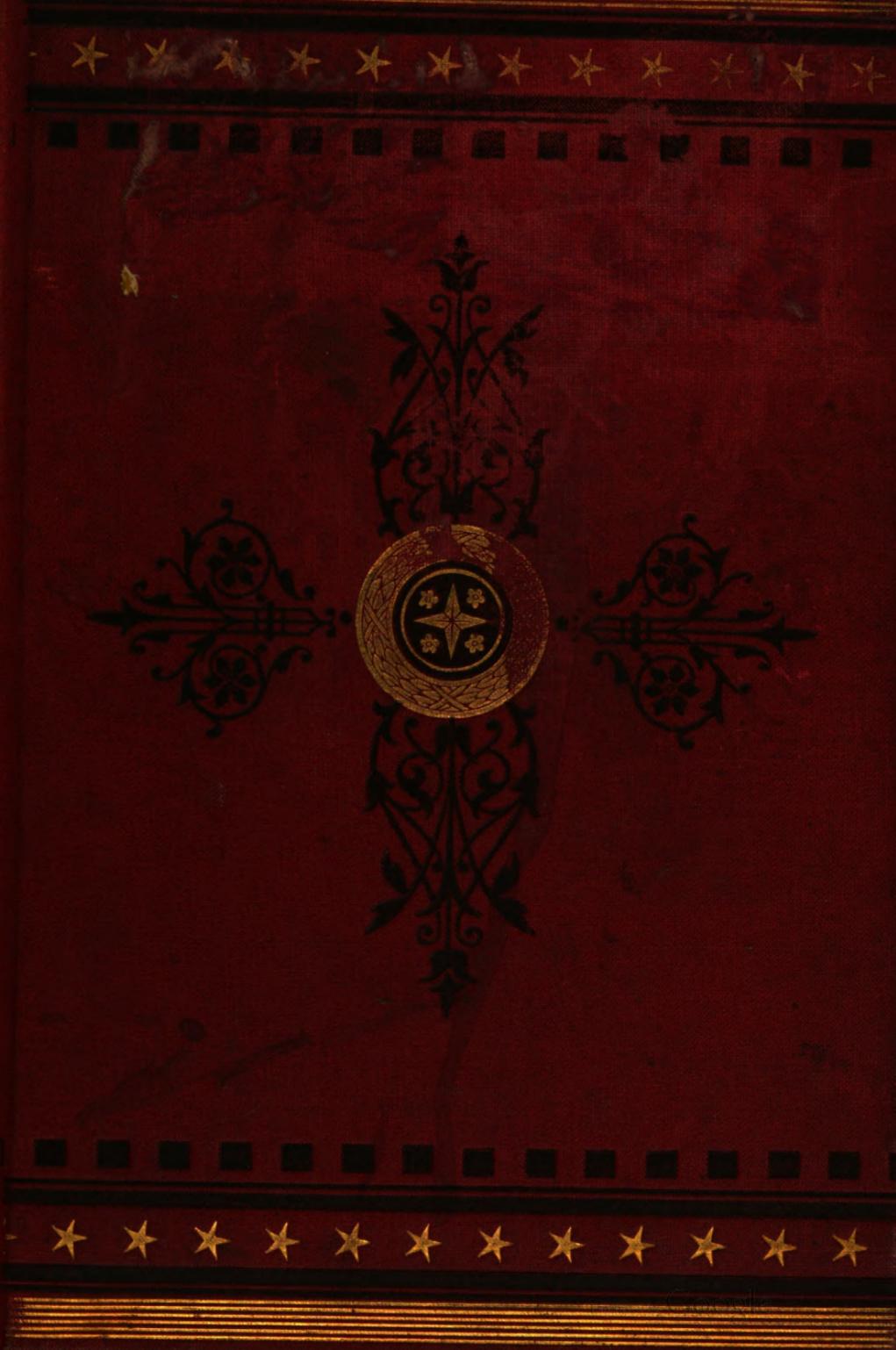
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RECOLLECTIONS
OF
SOPHIE MARIE COUNTESS VON VOSS

VOL. II.

LONDON : PRINTED BY
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AND PARLIAMENT STREET

SIXTY-NINE YEARS
AT THE
COURT OF PRUSSIA

FROM THE RECOLLECTIONS OF
THE MISTRESS OF THE HOUSEHOLD
SOPHIE MARIE COUNTESS VON VOSS

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN
BY
EMILY AND AGNES STEPHENSON

IN TWO VOLUMES
VOL. II.



LONDON
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1876

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UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

WIDOWHOOD—*continued.*

1793-1814.

‘ June 3.

‘ THE Queen was rather better to-day, and we were able to go on in the morning, after we had seen Countess Schwerin again. The place is small, but its situation on the Haff makes it interesting. About nine o'clock we continued our journey, but were obliged to stop a little while at each fresh relay on account of the peasants and deputations everywhere assembled ; but at any rate we did not leave the carriage excepting in Brandenburg, where there was a deputation of nobles, and I met Herr von Korff. At one o'clock we went on farther, and during the last stage before Königsberg the heat, dust, and noise of the people were so tremendous that it was literally impossible to see or breathe. All the houses were decorated with banners, garlands, and flags, and there was music everywhere. At the gate a number of young girls, dressed in white, brought

the Queen a great basket full of beautiful flowers. We drove across the town to the shore, where all the ships, covered with innumerable flags and garlands, lay at the quays. All the sailors were dressed in white, and greeted us with cheers and waving of hats. Before the palace stood all the generals and officers of higher rank, and besides them such a mass of people as is not to be described. The two gentlemen-in-waiting, Count Keyserling and Count Sacken, were presented. The Countesses Dönhoff, Groeben, and Osten, the Duchess of Holstein, and some other ladies, received the Queen in the palace. She did not keep them long with her, and soon retired. The palace is large, but hideous. I am lodged in Count Brünneck's children's rooms, the King and Queen in his own rooms.'

'June 4.

'Domhardt, the Dönhoffs, and the Dohnas came to me. We had a dinner of sixty people. The same ladies again as yesterday, and in addition the wives of all the generals. After dinner I had visits till seven o'clock. Then began the reception, and the presentations were endless. Late in the evening I went to the Dönhoffs for half an hour, but came back to supper at the

palace, and found the King 'not exactly in a brilliant humour after all the row.'

'June 5.

'The day of taking the oaths of allegiance. I had caught cold and was feverish, had had a dreadful night, and could scarcely stand, but was obliged to get up at six o'clock, and dress myself to be in the church by eight. The sermon was tolerable. Then the Te Deum was sung, and we went again into the Queen's room, where the Minister Haugwitz read out two addresses—a Latin one to the bishops, and a German one to the Ministers—and they then in the presence of the King took the oaths. The King then placed himself under the canopy, and Count Bronikowsky made a very fine speech in Polish, and President Wagner one in German. All were deeply moved. The foreigners and the officials dined in the Muscovite hall, which is enormously big. The King's table was in his own rooms. After dinner they retired for an hour. In the evening their Majesties went to the Minister Groeben's. The students formed a torchlight procession, gave a serenade, and then did homage. But I had gone to bed, and saw them no more.'

'June 6.

Great dinner at two tables. I had a great deal of writing to do, and many visits to receive, and the family of Prince Lubinsky came to see me. In the evening there was a great fête in the Muscovite hall, which is fabulously big. Every one that was possible had been invited, and yet there was plenty of spare room, except in the part of the hall where the poor Queen stood, where the crush was fearful. They were nearly suffocated. The King danced a quadrille with the young Princess of Holstein. The Queen remained till eleven o'clock. The fête was really very fine, and refreshments were carried round by girls in the national costume of Poland and of the neighbourhood, which looked charming.'

'June 7.

'The Queen dined in the camp. Fräulein Viereck was with her. I remained behind and dined at the Marshal's table. Went to church, then to a Lieutenant Hahnenfeld, of Werder's regiment, and in the evening with their Majesties to an assembly at the Ostens.'

'June 8.

'The Queen drove to the manœuvres; we fetched her back again at four o'clock from

Kalthoff, where she had dined with the King under a tent. We then went with her to the Minister Groeben's, where all the people of quality were assembled. We had to change our dresses again, and then went to the magnificent gardens, in which a beautiful fête was given by the authorities. The river flows past the gardens, and divides the town into two parts ; and this garden, as well as those on the other shore, were brilliantly illuminated. Over 3,000 people were invited to the fête ; the artisans and small tradespeople had illuminated one of the gardens on their own account, and over it there hung in the air a great transparency, ‘Hail to the King and Queen,’ which looked very well. We also went in a boat along the shore, and their Majesties got out at the before-mentioned garden, and walked round it. The water was covered with big boats full of musicians and singers, and as we returned to the great garden some grand fireworks were let off. They danced in the building belonging to the gardens, in three different rooms. The Queen danced a polonaise with the Minister Count Groeben, and a second one with Count Bronikowsky. The whole fête was wonderful, and we did not get home till long after midnight.’

'June 9.

'The King started at ten o'clock for Warsaw. The Queen dined alone with us, and went in the evening to a *thé dansant* at the Dönhoffs, which was very pretty.'

'June 10.

'Departure from Königsberg. The parting was very hard to us all. The whole nobility went to see the Queen off. Keyferling and Sacken awaited her at the first stage, a place called Buxdorf, where Count Dönhoff also gave us a charming *déjeûner*. From there we went to Domnau to a Herr von Witt, Osten's son-in-law, where we dined late. We remained here two hours. There was a heap of children in the house, big and little ones without end. From there to B_____, where we were to have dined under a tent, but instead of that we dined at Count Calnein's. The place is not pretty, but very old. We had coffee there, and then Major Woronowsky accompanied us on horseback for the next stage, although the distance was very great. Through the carelessness of our postilions we were upset on the way. We were very much frightened, but, thank God, the Queen was quite unhurt, and we others also. We arrived at five o'clock at

Countess Eulenburg's. The Queen, who was very tired, rested a little, and supped in her own room alone. The rest of us with the family Eulenburg, who are very agreeable.'

'June 11.

'The Queen was quite recovered again to-day, and we went on further at nine o'clock. We had our dinner on the way at a place called, I think, Mokainen, where the Minister Schroetter had sent his cook to provide everything of the best. All along the road to-day the loveliest wreaths of flowers were thrown into the carriage, and flowers without end greeted us everywhere. Towards-midday the second carriage was upset in a terrible way. Poor Schultz was much bruised, but luckily had no bones broken. We rested for a few hours, and then went on to Ortelsburg, where we stayed with a Count Goltz. The Queen supped alone. The customs here are rather Polish. An officer of the Fusiliers, von Bülow, was posted here with thirty men for our protection.'

'June 12.

'On at eight o'clock, always accompanied by an escort of mounted riflemen from every place where we rested, and a multitude of other people

on horseback. We passed through a little town of the name of Willenberg, where we drank coffee, and dined at a place where Schroetter had again sent his cook and all necessaries. At three o'clock on; through the horrible little town of Chorzele, to Makow, where the ladies of Bninsky's regiment received us. Then on to Rogalla, on the estate of a Herr von Wribidoff, who was, however, not there, where we passed the night. The house was very pretty, but dreadfully dirty. The provincial magistrate, Nesselersky, and his nephew, who was a great talker, did the honours.'

'June 13.

'On at eight o'clock. Presented with quantities of beautiful flowers. Breakfast at Pultusk, where the bishop received us. On to Sternice, where an old Count Coroninsky offered us fruit; and lastly, to Jablona, a charming castle belonging to Prince Poniatowsky. Unfortunately it began to rain here. The King arrived from another quarter at the same moment. We went on with him, and at last reached Warsaw at six o'clock in the evening, completely wet through. We drove through Prague, the sight of which was quite heartbreaking; one sees nothing but

ruins. Warsaw itself seems stately and handsome. The palace is very large, and extremely well arranged and furnished. After the gentleman who received us had been presented to the Queen she retired. Princess Radziwill came to see me. Her son, the Prince of Orange, Voss, and Hoym are also here. We supped at eight o'clock, and were dismissed at ten.'

'June 14.

'A great many visits in the morning. A dinner of seventy-two people, at which were present the Princess of Würtemberg, Radziwill, Ostrowa, and five other ladies, whose names I cannot remember. At five o'clock a reception for general presentations. Not only the gentlemen, but the ladies, had to be presented to both King and Queen, which was very wearisome. At seven o'clock a magnificent ball at Count Hoym's, who lives in the Prima palace. It was really a very brilliant fête. The Queen danced a polonaise with Count Radziwill. She is positively adored here, but the King is also very friendly and amiable. The palace garden was lighted like day, but the Queen was very tired, and we went home at ten o'clock. No supper had been

ordered here for the Queen, but they soon made a little soup for her.'

'June 15.

'Great dinner with ladies. In the evening we had a great ball, which lasted till one o'clock, and was really very pretty.'

'June 16.

'A dinner for gentlemen, at which the Queen did not appear, as she was very tired and knocked up. After dinner, visits. In the evening a wonderful fête at the palace of the late King, again given by Hoym. They acted, but in Polish. All the gardens and neighbourhood were wonderfully illuminated ; there was dancing before and after supper ; in short, it was a magnificent fête, and we did not get home till two o'clock in the morning.'

'June 17.

'Great manœuvres. In the evening, supper in the Saxon gardens. These gardens are the public walk here, and are very large and fine ; but the dreadful crush of people, who all wanted to see their Majesties, was past all conception.

'The King left in the evening for Neisse, and on the 18th, at eight o'clock in the morning, the Queen also left. We did not dine on the

way, but breakfasted under a tent at Count Lubinsky's, all whose relations were present, whose names I do not remember. From there we drove on the whole day, joyfully greeted everywhere, with refreshments, with triumphal arches, deputations, and flowers. Arrived at Radziwill's, who had already come far to meet us, with his four sons; we found a beautiful collation. After this we all drove to Arcadia, a delicious spot, where a temple of crystal had been erected for the Queen. In the middle of the lake there was a charming little enchanted island, in whose wooded walks were monuments, waterfalls, grottoes, and surprises without end. We supped late, and started, on

'June 19,

'At nine o'clock in the morning, for Petrikau. To-day also we were received everywhere on our way by deputations, music, flags, and flowers in profusion. The little town of Petrikau is not bad. We supped early, and remained here over night.'

'June 20.

'At nine o'clock again in the carriage, and arrived at eight in the evening at Celtscheff, at a Polish official's, of the name of Bettri. They spoke

scarcely any German here; it was tiresome and dirty.'

'June 21.

'Thank Heaven! we left at nine o'clock. Dinner at Kempen, where the Jews, who are the principal people here, had provided some pretty music during dinner time. They also played some charming Polish national songs. At two o'clock on, and again fêted everywhere, and joyfully received at every place with a thousand renewed attentions and surprises. At seven o'clock in the evening we were in Oels. The Duke was waiting for us, a mile from the town. We had to get into his carriage, to which were harnessed eight handsome horses, who, however, made a great fuss at a triumphal arch under which we were received, where they should have stood still. Being with some trouble checked and subdued, they took us safely to the castle, where the same commotion began as soon as they should have stopped, and we had to get out headlong, as quickly as possible. There was a great supper at the Duke's. The castle is fine. The fête lasted till midnight.'

'June 22.

'A tolerably quiet morning. The poor Queen

was very much exhausted. The Princess of Würtemberg, who is here, and the Duke of Oels, were with her in the morning. The dinner lasted from three till five o'clock. Then there was a play, with a prologue for the Queen. The music of the piece was charming, but it lasted till eleven o'clock, and we did not get to bed till one.'

'June 23.

'At eight o'clock, thank God, we left this fatiguing place, and to-day again, along the whole route, flowers were thrown to us. At twelve o'clock in Breslau. A mile from the town commenced the cheers and hurrahs, the triumphal arches, flower-throwing, and the tumult of the multitude, which never ceased till we alighted at the palace. This town seems to be immensely populated. At the gate stood the sons and daughters of the gardeners, who cultivate the land for miles around, in very rich array ; they strewed flowers, and presented the Queen with a beautiful poem, written and delivered in the national dialect. At the palace, all the people of quality and the officials were assembled to receive us. Count Maltzahn was gentleman-in-waiting. The Queen only took a little soup, and waited dinner for

the King, who arrived at seven o'clock. In the evening there was a great fête for the tradespeople in the Zwinger-Saal, where a perfect mass of people was assembled. The tradespeople presented the Queen with a beautiful casket, in which lay an entire set of really magnificent baby-linen, some pieces of fairy-like fine linen, a charming cradle band, and a silver rattle, which was a perfect work of art, with little lockets hanging to it, and fastened to a golden chain.'

'June 24.

'Magnificent dinner for gentlemen and ladies. After dinner a reception. In the evening a ball and illuminations, such as have never been seen. In the Prince of Hohenlohe's garden too, where we remained till ten o'clock, it was as light as day. Then there was supper at the palace. The entire fête was brilliant and magnificent beyond all description.'

'June 25.

'Again a great dinner, with ladies. In the morning I paid a visit to the Prince Bishop. In the evening there was a great ball at Count Hoym's in the Hatzfeld palace, a superb building. Both their Majesties danced several polonaises.

A charming illumination of the whole town, of the extensive suburban gardens, in front of all the churches, and along the shores of the beautiful and picturesque Oder, closed the fête.'

'June 26.

'At the Prince Bishop's. Then a great military dinner without ladies. Hoym and Maltzahn came to take leave, and the Queen left soon after three o'clock. She gave Maltzahn a locket with her hair, as a remembrance. We were all very sorry to leave Breslau, where all has been so pleasant. The warmth and heartiness with which she was received here charmed the Queen, and all of us. The King remained behind for a club ball of the townspeople. We drove to Crossen, had a charming collation in Grünberg, and were also met with festive greetings at Crossen. Baron Larisch and Prince Ferdinand received us here, and we were very well put up for the night.'

'June 27.

'We went on to Polkwitz, where we arrived late and remained over night.'

'June 28.

'To Frankfort, and alighted at the custom-house, where the Burgomaster gave us a great

déjeuner, with all the generals and officers of the garrison. Then on to Steinhövel at midday, where the King again joined us, and we had a very good dinner at Massow's. After dinner we had a pleasant walk, then there was a great supper and illuminations in the gardens.'

'June 29.

'We drove by Pankow, but not through the town ; then round Berlin, and arrived safely at last in Charlottenburg. Great rejoicings. The King's brother had already received us in Steinhövel ; the Royal sisters received us here, and a number of other people besides.'

'June 30.

'The Queen drove to Montbijou. Then there was a dinner at Charlottenburg. In the evening we were alone.'

'July 1.

'The Queen-mother came to dinner, and was in a very good humour. Visitors the whole day. I am setting my things in order here. We are now always alone of an evening, which I enjoy very much. Rauch is also here. Much worry and altercation about the preparations for the homage, which is to be on the 6th, especially about the tribunes ; they have been partly pulled

down again, and I think Herr von Massow has been quite wrong about it.'

'July 3.

'Birthday of Prince William, the King's brother. *Déjeuner* at the Queen-mother's, then the Schönhausen people came to us.'

'July 4.

'Went into town with the Queen, as we both had business there. We saw the white room at the palace, which is beautifully decorated for the ceremony of homage. The ladies-in-waiting went to a fête, given by Prince Repnin, in Countess Lichtenau's house, which stands in the Thiergarten. I remained alone with their Majesties and Köckritz.'

'July 6.

'At seven o'clock I drove with the Queen to the town. We dressed ourselves "*à la Romaine*" for the ceremony. Then the Queen drove in state, with eight horses, to the church, and I with her. The King and all the Princes were awaiting her, in the long mantles of their orders. After church she was conducted to the balcony of the white room, to assist from there at the taking of the oaths. The Princes had already taken the oaths in the knights' hall. It was wonderful.

In the baldaquin room they had erected a throne out from the great room. All the people took the oath, densely crowded in the great space, and the aspect of the square was grand and imposing, the whole spectacle touching and sublime. The cannon thundered the whole time, the bells rang, and the cheers of the multitude, especially for the Queen, filling the air with blessings and shouts of joy, were without pause. Dinner at eleven tables, and eight-and-twenty tables more for the deputations of the townspeople. In the evening back to Charlottenburg.'

'July 7.

'Dinner at twelve o'clock. At two I drove with the Queen to the town, where we dressed, and at six o'clock went to the palace. The Queen first received here Caillard, the French ambassador, who is leaving. The detestable Siéges comes in his stead. She then saw Schall the Bavarian, Adams, and Maisonneuve. Afterwards there was a great fête in the white room. A ball and supper for all the nobility.'

'July 8.

'Alone at dinner. In the evening with their Majesties to the opera-house, where Himmel gave a great concert.'

‘July 9.

‘Alone. We walked and occupied ourselves. The Maltzahns and Countess Magnis came to see me, and all enjoyed the beautiful weather.’

‘July 10.

‘Dinner of about fifty people, mostly deputations; only two ladies, Countess Pückler and Countess Magnis. It lasted very long.’

‘July 11.

‘The Schönhausens came to dinner. Prince William of Brunswick is still with us, and is a person whom I cannot bear. However, one must be on good terms with all the young Princes, and exercise forbearance. We always sup now in the garden.’

‘July 13.

‘The Queen sent for me to go to her at four o’clock in the morning; she was in much suffering, and it lasted till six o’clock, when a princess was born. The child is healthy and pretty, but the poor Queen was terribly weak. The Schönhausens came. The King, in his joy, could not be restrained from ushering all the Princes and Princesses into the Queen’s room; but in spite of it she slept on quietly. We had all the Princes

to dinner, also those of Brunswick and of Weimar, who arrived to-day. In the evening the Queen had a little more peace. I wanted to watch by her, but could not manage it.'

'July 14.

'The Queen, thank God, has slept well. We had the Princes of Weimar and Brunswick to dinner. I had a terrible number of visitors, and was the rest of the time with the Queen.'

'July 15.

'The Queen well. Many visits. For the rest of the time with the angel Queen.'

'July 16.

'The Queen well. The Schönhausens and all the Princes to supper with us, and everybody always running in to the poor Queen, who is so weak. It really drives me to despair.'

'July 17.

'Thank God, she is well.'

'July 18.

'The Queen to-day very bright and cheerful.'

'July 19.

'The Queen wonderfully well. All the Princes, including those of Weimar, Brunswick,

and Darmstadt to dinner, and they also went in to the Queen after dinner, which does not please me at all. The King of Sardinia has given up land to the French ; they have but to ask now. They have also got the island of Malta.'

'July 20.

'The Queen very well. The Princes here, which is very disagreeable to me. Many visits.'

'July 21.

'Alone with the King, who is now always exceedingly cheerful and good-tempered.'

'August 3.

'Birthday of the King, and christening of the little princess. The Queen gave the King a perfect heap of pretty things. I gave him an ink-stand, and the ladies-in-waiting two engravings. Great dinner at two tables. As the Queen-mother was unwell the child was not baptised in church, but in the room next the gallery. I carried it to her. It received the names of Frederika Louisa Charlotte Wilhelmina.'

In the autumn of 1798 the Court left Potsdam,

and went back to Berlin for the Carnival. In the summer of 1799 a journey to Westphalia was undertaken, and on the way back Darmstadt, Hilburghausen, Cassel, Wilhelmshöhe, and Wilhelmsthal were visited. The mistress of the household accompanied the Queen. The whole journey occupied two months, and was a great pleasure to the latter. To the two Fräuleins von Viereck, original ladies-in-waiting, three others had been added, Countesses von Tauenzien, von Hardenberg, and von Moltke. The Queen's two gentlemen-in-waiting were Herr von Schilden and Herr von Buch ; and the pages, von Hobe and von Meyeringk.

On October 14 the Queen gave birth in Potsdam to a princess, who received the name of Frederika ; her fifth child. But it was exceedingly delicate, and on March 30, 1800, it died, to the great grief of the Royal mother. In this year, 1800, the King raised Countess von Voss, in her own person and that of her descendants, to the rank of hereditary Counts, and bestowed the patent for this rank upon her on her birthday, March 11, giving it to her in a jesting way amongst other presents. In the summer of this year she accompanied the Queen on a journey in the Silesian

Riesengebirge, to Breslau and to the camp at Lissa, where she remained with the King for the autumn manœuvres. The customary residence at Potsdam in the late autumn lasted longer than usual this year; the Court only returned to Berlin on December 21. On October 14, Countess von Voss's grandson, Count Augustus Voss, then not quite one-and-twenty years old, married the daughter of the chamberlain von Berg, afterwards Count von Berg Schönfeld. Her mother, by birth a von Häseler, was that Frau von Berg so well known afterwards from the Queen's friendship to her and her devotion to the Queen. The mistress of the household, who dearly loved her only grandson young Voss, was pleased with his choice, rejoiced in his happiness, and was herself present at the marriage, which was celebrated at Bahrensdorf near Beeskow, an estate belonging to Frau von Berg. In the following year, on August 15, 1801, the first great-grandchild of this marriage was born at Berlin, the still surviving Count Felix Voss of Gross-Giewitz; he remained the only son. This child was henceforward her great joy and interest, and to the last day of her life she poured out her love and tenderness upon him; and at her death it was he, then a boy of thirteen, who as

her only relation followed her to the grave as mourner.

In this year, 1801, the Court was not absent for any length of time, but remained quietly for the whole summer at Charlottenburg. On June 29 the Queen gave birth here to her sixth child, a prince, who received the name of Charles.

In the autumn she accompanied the King for a week to the manœuvres at Magdeburg, again remained at Potsdam till Christmas, and returned to Berlin for the winter. In the following summer, 1802, a journey into East Prussia was undertaken. The King was present at the manœuvres in this province, returned to Berlin by way of Warsaw, and the whole absence lasted about six weeks. During their residence at Memel he and the Queen received a visit from the Emperor Alexander of Russia. In contrast to his later visit to the same place, this first happy meeting of the two sovereigns here is of special interest, and we give the pages of the Countess's diary in which it is mentioned.

'Memel, June 10, 1802.

'At ten this morning the King rode out to meet the Emperor a mile from the town. As

soon as the Emperor saw him coming, he alighted from his carriage and mounted his horse to meet the King in the same manner. He was escorted from the frontier by detachments of hussars and dragoons, and from the city gates, before which a triumphal arch had been erected, the streets were lined by the infantry regiments. The tradespeople also received the Emperor at the gates on horseback. Bands of music were stationed in all the streets. Salutes, cheers, and shouts filled the air with their joyful noise. Countess Moltke and I received the Emperor at the foot of the staircase, and the King presented me to him. The Queen received him in the first room upstairs she was to-day more beautiful than ever. The Emperor went with their Majesties into the second room, and after a few moments came back again, and spoke to me in a most engaging and amiable way. He is a handsome man, fair, with a very striking countenance, but his figure is not good, or rather he does not hold himself well. His character seems to be gentle and humane ; at any rate he is particularly courteous and pleasant. Dinner was at two o'clock ; amongst the suite were Count Tolstoy, Kotshubey, Dolgorucki, Lieven, Wilkowsky, and Natisloff. In the evening

the Royalties drank tea first by themselves, and the household in the outer room with the Russians; but their Majesties soon came out to us. Card-tables were brought, and people sat down to them, and the Emperor sat down by me and talked to me for a long time. At eleven o'clock supper at little tables.'

'June 11.

'The Queen drove to the manœuvres, then came the Emperor to breakfast with her. Dinner again at two. Towards evening the Queen rode out with the Emperor to the camp. Countess Moltke and I, Lehndorff and Schilden, followed her in a carriage. In the evening Alopäus arrived, and we had supper as yesterday. The Queen looked beautiful.'

'June 12.

'The Queen again rode to the manœuvres. The Portuguese ambassador at St. Petersburg, Chevalier Nizza, a very agreeable man, came to dinner. In the evening a ball was given by the citizens, where the heat and crowd were such that we were nearly stifled. At supper I sat next to the Emperor; he makes himself particularly pleasant to me, and I must say that he is really very agreeable, and has a most winning manner.'

‘June 13.

‘I spent the morning with the Queen, who did not ride on account of the heat; the Emperor soon came to see her, and was as gracious and amiable as possible. A great dinner. In the evening went with some distinguished Courland and Polish ladies, who had just arrived, to a small dance given by the King. I danced a polonaise with the Emperor.’

‘June 14.

‘Alone with their Majesties for the first breakfast. After dinner the Queen had an attack of spasms for the first time in her life, I think in consequence of the great heat. Prince Alexander of Würtemberg arrived. The two sovereigns rode in the evening; the Queen, the Princess of Würtemberg, and I drove to the lighthouse.’

‘June 15.

‘The Queen, thank God, is well again. I was alone with their Majesties all the morning, and also at dinner; the rest of the household dined with the Russian gentlemen. The Emperor was most gracious and amiable, and drank my health in a particularly kind manner. He is the most charming man one can imagine, and besides he is thoroughly and entirely honourable in his

views and opinions. The poor man is quite dazzled and enchanted with the Queen ! After dinner he gave me a pair of very fine diamond earrings, and Countess Moltke a pearl necklace. I thanked him for his great kindness and favour. The Queen went out riding again later with their Majesties ; after tea the Russian gentlemen were desired to attend to take leave ; I quite grieved that these pleasant days should have come to an end.'

' June 16.

' The Emperor breakfasted with their Majesties and remained till ten o'clock ; then he went away, and Count Kalkreuth accompanied him. I took leave of him with tears, and indeed we all wept. Immediately afterwards we also came away, their Majesties on horseback, till within a few miles of Tilsit, when the Queen got into the carriage, having first got thoroughly wet through by the rain. The entry into Tilsit, where we were received in great state, was very pretty ; the following days there were perpetual reviews and manœuvres.'

On February 23, 1803, the Queen gave birth to her seventh child, a princess, who received the

name of Alexandrina. On this occasion she was very unwell for the last few months before her confinement, and, contrary to her usual habit, recovered very slowly. But the fine season, and the open-air life which she was so fond of, and which was always her best medicine, by degrees restored her former strength, and she was able to accompany the King on a long journey through the kingdom and to the so-called new provinces, to Erfurt and Mühlhausen.

The mistress of the household lost this year her son-in-law, the Count Castell-Rüdenhausen, whose widow at first retired to her dower house, Castle Remlingen in Würzburg, but also came oftener than formerly to Berlin to visit her mother.

In January 1804 the King's brother, Prince William, married Princess Marianne of Hesse Homburg. The Countess says: ‘We had already seen the Princess at Frankfurt, whither the Court had gone on purpose. But her first appearance promised more than she afterwards held good ; the newly-married pair were a stiff and stupid couple from the first.’

On December 13, of the same year, the Queen gave birth to her eighth child, a prince, who received the name of Ferdinand. He was a

remarkably beautiful and engaging child, and the delight of his mother's heart ; but she lost him on April 1, 1806, and sorrow for his death greatly affected her already failing health. The Queen was long inconsolable for the loss of this child, and it almost seemed as if, from the moment when it closed its eyes in her arms, she was never to know another moment of full and perfect happiness.

In June of this year she was sent to Pyrmont by the physicians, and travelled on this occasion without the King, only accompanied by the mistress of the household and her other attendants. She was touchingly conscientious and careful in the use of all means of health there, that, as she said, ‘the object might be attained of this painful separation from the King and her children.’ Countess Voss says of this visit :—

‘In the easy social circle of visitors here, my beloved Queen was literally worshipped by all, all who saw her ; she never forgot her position for a moment, but with her unfailing, gentle dignity she was cheerful, even gay, and her constantly even, amiable temper made the existence of all who lived with her easy and happy. Especially when she received letters from the King

or from her other relations, she would be radiant with joy, and hastened her return as much as possible merely to be with the King again on his birthday. The waters did her evident good. Her joy was really touching on seeing the King, who came several miles from Potsdam to meet her.'

Hardly had she returned before the Queen heard to her horror that war with France was decided upon, and that already the preparations were nearly complete, and the army in marching order. While still at Pyrmont, indeed, she had heard with sorrow of the conclusion of the Confederation of the Rhine, and Napoleon's protectorate over it, but all that had passed in the Prussian Cabinet during the last six weeks had been kept secret from her by desire of the King, who wished to spare her all care and anxiety during her absence. Their Majesties remained still for a few weeks at Charlottenburg, and on September 20 went, by way of Magdeburg and Halle, to Naumburg on the Saale, where they remained about a fortnight waiting for the final preparations of the troops and the definite outbreak of hostilities. The King hoped for the assistance of the Russian arms, for the friend-

ship of the Emperor for the King had remained unchanged since that first meeting and acquaintance at Memel in 1802. Political appearances, the intrigues and efforts of the party inimical to Prussia, had been powerless to affect it, and now at the decisive moment, when war with Napoleon had become necessary, and was approaching in its full gravity, Alexander still stood beside the King as his friend and ally. Notwithstanding this happy assurance, the hour when Russia and Prussia were really to fight side by side was unfortunately still distant, and the latter was obliged at first to begin the struggle alone, without the support of allies. The Russian troops, whose earlier advance might have prevented the defeat of Jena, or have averted or lessened its consequences, only appeared in the field when the last remnants of the Prussian army had already been driven back upon East Prussia. The Queen had, as we have already said, followed her husband to the field. In attendance upon her were only the mistress of the household, Fräulein von Viereck, Countess Tauenzien, and two waiting-women. However incompletely are reflected the horrors of these days of misfortune in the Countess's diary, written in disjointed fragments, and sometimes in

absolute ignorance of the *real* events, as may so easily happen in the rear of an army, it is yet full of painful interest, and gives some idea of what the unhappy Queen went through at that time. Notwithstanding its deficiencies, therefore, we give a few pages of it just as they stand.

• • • • •

‘October 4, 1806.

‘The Queen left Naumburg with the King for Erfurt, where the head-quarters are; we break-fast ed at Weimar. Their Majesties went together in the first carriage, I with Fräulein von Viereck and Countess Tauenzien in the second, Köckritz and Buch in the third.’

‘October 5.

‘A great military dinner at Erfurt, at which Prince Hohenlohe and General Rüchel were also present. A council of war was held, Haugwitz and Lucchesini attended it; God grant that it may lead to some success! The Field-Marshal is still with us. The Duchess of Hildburghausen arrived. It is said that Napoleon is at Schweinfurt.’

‘October 6.

‘Hohenlohe and Rüchel came to dinner, and then went on to join the army.’

'October 7.

'The Hereditary Prince of Weimar and his wife arrived. The French are said to be still near Schweinfurt. The troops marched through here, and are now advancing.'

'October 8.

'The Jägers from Weimar marched through to-day, to join our troops ; they look very well. The Weimar Prince and Princess went away.'

'October 9.

'From early morning till midday we looked on as the troops defiled through the town, for the whole army is now hastening to the front. The Prince of Orange and the Prince of Hesse Cassel both arrived ; there is a terrible crowd and confusion of people here.'

'October 10.

'At six o'clock this morning we left Erfurt, by frightful roads, to Blankenheim. The French seem to be everywhere already. We all remained together till late at night ; firing was heard on all sides. None of us went to bed, as we had to be ready in case it should be necessary to continue our journey at a moment's notice. At last, at five o'clock in the morning, we started ; the roads

were very bad : in Weimar we alighted, but our things remained packed in the carriages. Here we received the terrible news that Prince Louis Ferdinand fell yesterday at Saalfeld; he had exposed himself too much, and ventured forward alone. The battle has cost great loss; many officers are killed and wounded. It seems to have taken place close to Rudolstadt; our troops were in the minority, and had superior numbers opposed to them. The whole army is encamped or bivouacking; the Princes of the different corps came here to-day for an hour; we dined with Prince Charles, the Princes of Coburg and Cassel. The head-quarters are now here at Weimar; our Majesties live in the Cavalierhause, and we others in the Forsthause.'

'October 12.

'We dined to-day with the Weimar Court and the Princes, who again came in from the camp.'

'October 13.

'A terrible day. We received the news that the army was breaking up their camp to advance upon the enemy. The Queen, Fräulein von Viereck, Countess Tauenzien, and I set off on the road to Auerstädt. Suddenly the Duke of Bruns-

wick sent us word that we must turn back, as a battle was expected in that quarter the next day. It was a terrible moment. We returned to Weimar; General Rüchel came himself to tell us in what direction we should go.'

'October 14.

'At five o'clock this morning we left Weimar for the second time, in the most deadly fear and anxiety as to our own fate and that of the army. Bailloz, Lieutenant Jagow, and sixty men escorted us to Langensalza. At Erfurt we saw Haugwitz and Lucchesini again for a moment. In the evening we got to Heiligenstadt; the Queen's close carriage broke down on the way: she went in Buch's open carriage, and we travelled with the waiting-woman. Late at night we arrived, and spent the night at the house of one of the chamberlains.'

'October 15.

'Continued our journey in the same carriage as yesterday, as the Queen's must be left behind. Not the smallest news of the troops. Suddenly arrived a post-office clerk on horseback, shouting that the battle was won. Late in the evening we arrived at Brunswick.'

‘October 16.

‘At five in the morning went on to Tangermünde. The Queen, thank God, is well.’

‘October 17.

‘From Tangermünde to Berlin. An orderly arrived, bringing the terrible news that the battle is lost. He said that the mortal wound of the Duke of Brunswick caused the disaster. Count Schulenberg was waiting for the Queen at the palace, to tell her that she must go on to Stettin the very next morning.’

‘October 18.

‘The Queen went on with her two ladies-in-waiting. I remained here to pack up and put in order as much as possible. But how little can we send away; most things must remain behind. It was said that the King was coming, but he did not arrive.’

‘October 19.

‘At six o’clock in the morning I also left Berlin. I was told that the few remaining troops here must leave at once, as the French are already expected. I came through Bernau, Neustadt, and Angermünde; at Schwedt I was obliged to sleep at the castle, as I could not find rooms any-

where else. I found here Princess William and Frau d'Arville.'

'October 20.

'A courier, on his way to the Queen at Stettin, told me that he was taking her directions to go on to Küstrin, where the poor King has already arrived ; he had no other news. I passed through Garz to Stettin ; the Queen was already gone with Fräulein von Viereck and Herr von Buch in a little open carriage. I found no news from her, excepting that I was to go straight to the children at Dantzig.'

'October 21.

'Went on to Dantzig with the younger Viereck. Frightful roads ; great difficulty in getting on and obtaining horses.'

'October 25.

'Arrived at Dantzig at last, after many halts ; Prince and Princess Solms and the Royal children are here, but no news whatever of their Majesties ; they are supposed to be still at Küstrin.'

'October 27.

'Received a despatch from the Queen, which says that she does not know when she will leave Küstrin ; the Marshal and the Prince of Orange have been taken prisoners ; Count Goltz re-

captured six stands of colours that had been taken from us, and were being sent away under escort. This is some small pleasure, but for the rest I am perfectly convinced that all is lost for us.'

'October 28.

'I saw a letter from Massow, which said that the French entered Berlin on the 24th, but until now have preserved order. The Minister Count Hardenberg arrived here to-day; he saw their Majesties at Küstrin, but says that the King did not speak to him at all.'

'October 29.

'Received a letter from the Minister Schroetter, who tells me that their Majesties were to be at Graudenz to-day. The French have completely sacked Alt-Landsberg. Napoleon is at Berlin. May God protect us and free the earth from this wretch, who is the scourge of mankind!'

'October 30.

'Their Majesties are at Stargard, and their baggage-waggons at Graudenz; nobody knows why. Prince Hohenlohe is said to have won a victory, but in fact nothing is known but utterly untrustworthy rumours. The indecision, the blindness, and incapacity which reign in the

highest places, and even around the King, are our greatest misfortune.

‘The kingdoms of this world with their greatness and power rise up for a time, and then sink down and disappear in the stream of the world’s events. Does it not seem as if the monarchy were on the verge of falling into ruins in this tempest of misfortune, if a miracle does not come to save us? Only the strong hand of God can save us from the oppressor; if He will help us, all things are possible; but we can no longer conquer in our own strength! Our troops are good; but they are not like his, accustomed to battle and schooled in war, and *he*?—war is his trade, he understands it and we do not. He, too, will some day fall, but perhaps too late for us, too late for our beloved Germany.’

‘October 31.

‘I have been writing letters, but who knows whether they will ever be received? No news whatever—it is terrible! Neither our boxes from Magdeburg nor those from Stettin arrive. I have great trouble and difficulty here in arranging the Royal children’s household, and keeping a good table for them.’

‘ November 1.

‘ It is said that Prince Hohenlohe has been defeated at Prenzlau, and forced to capitulate and surrender himself and all his troops. Their Majesties are again at Graudenz. The Princes go-to-morrow to Königsberg. Princess Solms sent an orderly to the Queen to ask whether we should also go away. Princess Radziwill arrived to-day, and says that as the King has no more troops he *must* conclude a peace. General Zastrow is said to have been sent to Napoleon at Berlin. As the latter passed through Potsdam, he assured the inhabitants that the memory of Frederick II. inspired him with too much respect for him to ask money from them ; they need only supply provisions for the soldiers and forage for the horses. The French must have been at Stettin since the 30th. The Prince and Princess of Orange have just sent on a courier to announce their speedy arrival here. All the news is terrible ; it seems as if Providence has determined utterly to annihilate us—its ways are not our ways.’

‘ November 2.

‘ Princess Solms has gone away. We are only waiting for the orderly’s return to do the same. A courier came from the Queen to say that she

was going back to Graudenz, that Hohenlohe is a prisoner, that the French have crossed the Oder ; in a word—she writes in despair—she says besides that Jerome is to be King of Prussia and Poland. I fear that Napoleon will rob us of all, even to the last.

‘Baron Krüdener came to look for the King and in the evening went on to Graudenz. Little Princess ~~Alexandrina~~ is very ill ; I fear it is dysentery. God is heaping sorrow upon us ! The Oranges and Prince Henry have arrived. It is said that Stettin has surrendered.’

‘November 3.

‘I sent a courier to the Queen, as the little Princess has really got dysentery, and is already very ill and weak. The other Royal children set off to-day for Königsberg. Princess William has just been confined of a daughter. Poor Princess, in what a situation ! God is visiting our sins upon us, and sending us great tribulation.’

‘November 4.

‘The orderly came back from Graudenz ; the dear unhappy Queen is beside herself about the little Princess. I wrote to her again immediately. Stettin has surrendered, and, it is said, Küstrin also ; it is positive baseness. Nothing is yet

heard of peace. The Queen believes that the Emperor Alexander is coming. Their Majesties remain in Graudenz. Schulenberg, Stein, and Voss are here. I saw the Princess of Orange, Prince Henry, Pfuel, and Hacke; all are in despair.'

'November 5.

'I received a letter from Schulenberg, quite early this morning, to tell me that the King had commanded that the whole Court should leave here for Schönhausen. I sent the letter to all the Princesses. Hufeland said that the little Princess could travel without danger, and so we also go to-morrow. Prince William came here to-day; the Princess is well, if they could only move her. The King's brothers and the Minister started for Graudenz to-night. There is to be a council held on account of the peace negotiations. The Queen writes to Princess Solms that Prince Hatzfeld had written to Hohenlohe that they are trying to cut him off. Napoleon got hold of and stopped this letter, and would have shot Hatzfeld in consequence. He only granted his life at last to the prayers and entreaties of his wife, but had him transported to his estates in Silesia as a criminal.'

‘November 6.

‘We left here at nine o’clock in the morning with the little Princess Alexandrina, and remained for the night in Marienburg, where I arrived quite ill.’

‘November 7.

‘At eight o’clock on to Elbing, where we arrived at one o’clock, and stayed the night.’

‘November 8.

‘On at eight o’clock. At midday in Braunsberg, and at night in H——.’

‘November 9.

‘At Königsberg at twelve o’clock in the middle of the day, and alighted at the castle. We know and hear nothing. All hope in Russia, but nothing is certain. The reports circulating here are but empty rumours. At last our horses have arrived, and also my maids. God knows where they have been.

‘Napoleon is in Sanssouci.’

‘November 10.

‘An orderly came from Graudenz. Thank God, they are all well, and the King is still quite calm. It is wonderful. I also had a letter from Buch, who writes very sorrowfully. His brother

is wounded. Pourtales and Pannewitz are dead. The regiment of *gens-d'armes* returned to Berlin disarmed as prisoners. Count Schmettau has died of his wounds. Oh! what misfortune and misery! Napoleon has found a letter in Charlottenburg, left by the Queen, or, as they say, slipped behind a sofa cushion, where it had remained unobserved; and this letter has made him quite furious.'

'November 11.

'The Royal children are rather better. They say the Russians are approaching. Prince Suboff passed through here on his way back to St. Petersburg.'

'November 12.

'I had a letter from Fräulein Viereck, from Graudenz. Everything is the same. I wrote to the Emperor Alexander.'

'November 13.

'I dined with the Royal children. In the evening I am always alone. Napoleon is trying to get up a revolution in Poland. He is a monster! May God destroy him!'

'November 14.

'Hardenberg and Major Bronikowsky arrived here from Graudenz. They are to collect all the

troops left in the country, to allow the rest of our army to join the Russians. If we could only remain here ! At this season, and in this weather, it would be terrible if we had to move on with the poor sick children. The Queen wrote a very sad letter to Princess Solms.'

'November 15.

'It is said their Majesties are going to Osterode. 62,000 Russians have united with the rest of our troops still remaining in the provinces. The little Prince Charles is worse, and makes me very anxious. He has a bad nervous fever.'

'November 16.

'I had a letter from the Queen. She writes in very low spirits. The people of Posen have joined the insurrection, but not those of Bromberg. Their Majesties have not left Graudenz. They talk of peace. What will become of us ! Merciful God, help, oh ! help us ! Hufeland has remained with Princess William in Dantzig. I sent a despatch to him, to tell him that he must come on account of little Prince Charles.'

'November 17.

'They say their Majesties have been obliged to leave Graudenz, on account of the French

hordes, and are now in Osterode. My poor, poor Queen !'

'November 18.

'The little one is not well. I await Hufeland with great impatience. The Ministers are also in Osterode. Nothing but councils ! The Russians are advancing. If they would only fight !'

'November 19.

'Princess William's luggage is arrived. Her little newborn princess is dead. They say that Duroc is going to Osterode. God knows what all these negotiations will come to ! The Elector of Hesse has gone to Schleswig. All his troops are disarmed. The Duke of Brunswick is deposed and banished. It is said he goes to England.'

'November 20.

'Hufeland arrived in the night. He found the little one very ill ; changed the medicine at once, and put him into a wine bath. He got a little better, but worse again in the night. I sent another despatch to the Queen. Napoleon makes terrible conditions. Good God ! what dreadful times !'

‘November 21.

‘The little prince had a bad night. I left Hufeland sleeping close by him. Towards morning he was better, but he is still in great danger. The Queen writes to me that she hopes soon to come. She had had a terrible journey from Graudenz to Osterode. Poor unfortunate woman! Bronikowsky came and told me that Magdeburg had surrendered on the 11th. Great God! what news! I cannot believe it! The Radziwills have arrived and came to me. The little one is always worse towards evening; I do not think the danger is yet over for him.’

‘November 22.

‘Tolstoy passed through here. They expect Duroc in Osterode.’

‘November 23.

‘Count Dönhoff came from Osterode; he says the Queen is much depressed. All the infamies which Napoleon has published against her are very agitating; and then comes the anxiety about the child. Her letter to-day to Princess Solms is heartbreaking. Duroc had arrived, but she had not yet seen him.’

‘November 24.

‘The Queen writes that she is going to

Ortelsburg. Duroc was very courteous. Everything is hoped from the Russians. God grant that it may be no illusion.'

'November 25.

'Prince William has arrived ; the Prince comes to-morrow. Prince Solms is also there, and always the same ; he is in no way improved. General Lestocq commands under Benningsen. A number of recruits and scattered troops are to be collected here.'

'November 26.

'General Knobelsdorf, Hacke, and Schwerin came here from Osterode, very sad and disheartened. The King calm as ever, the poor Queen very desponding. The little one is worse again : they have given him baths, God grant they may do him good.'

'November 27.

'General Kalkreuth, who has been deprived of the command of the troops, is furious, and makes derisive and sarcastic remarks over everything that takes place.'

'November 29.

'Their Majesties remain in Ortelsburg.'

'December 1.

'The poor Queen writes a pitiful letter, full of

her anxiety about this beloved child. May God spare the child and assist the Russians ! They have made an advance, and driven back the French, not far from Warsaw. The Archduke Charles of Austria is advancing. Providence will, in its own good time, help the right. We must be constant.'

'December 9.

'The Queen arrived at twelve o'clock. I am beside myself with joy.'

'December 10.

'The poor Queen has a dreadful headache. Rüchel and Hardenberg were with her early, and to dinner came also the Minister Schulenberg, Prince Solms, and General Friesen, who leaves to-day. The King arrived quite unexpectedly. My emotion at seeing him again was great. My heart was full of such joy and pain as I could not find words to express ! He looks tolerably well, and appears to be so.'

'December 11.

'The Queen is very suffering. She has much fever, but nevertheless got up and dined with Princess William. The King dined with us, and all the leading officials and nobles were invited to dinner. The King made a very good speech.

The Prince of Coburg came, and in the evening Prince Henry also. All the King's brothers are occupied with inspections.'

' December 12.

' The Queen was very ill in the night, and could not get up. The little one tolerable. At dinner General Korff, Kalkreuth, Commandant Kleist, Count Dohna, and Lindenau.

' News came that the French have reached Thorn with 15,000 men, and it is feared that Benningsen has made a terrible mistake. What it is to trust in man! God alone can help us, and no other!

' December 13.

The Queen is still very suffering, constant fever and violent headache. She got up, but could not bear it, and had to go to bed again. The restlessness of the child, who is close to her and cries all day, cannot be good for her, but she will not be separated from him. At dinner we had the Duke of Holstein, the Solms, and as usual the commandant, the aide-de-camp, Count Dönhoff and Brunowsky.'

' December 14.

' Princess William, Holstein, Knobelsdorf, Voss, Schroetter, and Lord Gower came to dinner.

There is bad news; the French have advanced further. Lestocq has had again to withdraw, Benningsen himself desired it.'

'December 15.

'At dinner we had the President, Winterfeld, Groeben and Rüchel, Lucchesini and Zastrow, who had just arrived. They say Napoleon also takes possession of both the Duchies of Mecklenburg. The King was much affected by this news, which touches him very nearly.'

'December 16.

'It is thought the French will come as far as here, as the Russians do absolutely nothing. In that case the Queen must go, in spite of her illness, and I shall remain alone here with the little prince, who is not in a condition to travel.'

'December 17.

'Kalkreuth, the commandant of the cadet corps, Kotze, and the aides-de-camp came to dinner. In the evening Princess Solms came. She laughed, talked so loud, and made such a noise with the two young ladies-in-waiting in the room next to the poor Queen till quite late, that I was very angry about it.'

'December 18.

'The Queen is worse to-day. She was woke

by the laughing of the ladies in the next room. They changed her medicine. She was extremely restless, cried a great deal, and now, alas! it is declared to be a violent nervous fever.'

' December 19.

' Schulenberg retires. He is one of those people who never know what they want. The Russians do nothing.'

' December 20.

' Krusemark arrived from Wehlau, and goes to St. Petersburg. I am very glad of it.'

' December 21.

' Krüdener came to see me, then Schulenberg and Kalkreuth. They are always intriguing. Why are there so few unselfish men in the world? Hardenberg is gone, and Zastrow has his place, but it will not last long with him either.'

' December 22.

' The Queen very restless and quite sleepless. She is unfortunately very weak in consequence, but the fever is rather less high. I am not satisfied about it. May God preserve her! A Russian general arrived here to-day with a letter from the Emperor, and one from Marshal Kaminskoi, who has arrived in Pultusk, and I

hope that he will put to flight the French, who have advanced there. They say there is unfortunately a great deal of sickness prevailing everywhere.' If Napoleon would only take fright and withdraw!'

' December 24.

' At dinner Lord Hutchinson, his brother Wilson, and another Englishman. The first had made himself famous in Egypt. In the evening I gave the children some Christmas presents.'

' December 25.

' In the Royal chapel, but, alas! not a good sermon. The Queen, thank God, has rather less fever. Lord Hutchinson goes to the army; others, who should go, remain here! The King would have no Christmas festivities, either for the children or for any one else.'

' December 26.

' The Queen had a bath to-day, and it did her a little good, but there is no longer any doubt that it is a nervous fever.'

' December 27.

' Poor Lestocq has had to retire. The French attacked him, and he has lost a great many men. Our enemies have luck that disheartens the most courageous.'

' December 28.

' Bad news, which Buch always makes the worst of. Lestocq is really obliged to retire. The French harass him continually. During this hard time of sickness I have learnt to know the courage and calmness of my beloved Queen, and her entire submission to the will of God. She only values her own life for the sake of her husband and children, and the complete resignation of her mind to the decrees of the Almighty is what gives her this great patience and inward peace.'

' December 29.

' The Russian advance guard has been driven back by the French. This is very bad, but not sufficient to make one give up all courage and all hope, as the people here at Court do.

' It makes me angry when I see this inordinate fear and despair. In the afternoon and evening we were by ourselves. The dear children make a fearful noise.'

' December 30.

' Great joy. Benningsen has fought a sanguinary but victorious battle with the French at Pultusk, on the 26th. Herr von Wrangel arrived as courier. We were all much affected, and the

dear King told it to us in so charming a way that we were doubly moved! Then he told the dear Queen, and she was so pleased! Six thousand men remained dead on the field ; he was not able to pursue the enemy. We had the Princes Zastrow and Solms to dinner, and had a burning pudding in honour of Prince Henry's birthday.'

' December 31.

' Major Klüx went as courier to St. Petersburg. I wrote to the Emperor. The Queen, thank God, is better. The Russians have gained another advantage, but as they have no provisions they have had nevertheless to retire. The last hours of this sad year will strike to-day. Heaven grant that the next may be more favourable to us, and may He save us out of the hand of our enemies, especially from the malice of the monster who has brought all this misery upon us ! '

' January 1, 1807.

' By God's grace I am still living this year. Alas! since the month of November we have been pursued by every species of evil and horror. May God have pity on us, and destroy the enemy which is devastating our poor country. I was in the Royal chapel, where the chaplain of Rüchel's

regiment preached a very good sermon. The King and the whole Royal family were also there. Little Prince William received his uniform and the great order to-day, which was a great pleasure to us all. At dinner we had the Williams, Solms, Radziwills, and all the generals, Schroetter, Korff and Schlieffen, and also Calnein, to congratulate him. There are fears for Lestocq. He has only a few troops, and the enemy is said to have attacked him. The King is very apprehensive, and the poor Queen also, which exhausts and is very bad for her.'

'January 2.

'The Queen rather better. Very unsatisfactory news. General Lestocq has lost a great many men, and has had to withdraw. The Royal children go to-morrow to Memel, and we go there as soon as possible. The Englishmen who are here go there also.'

'January 3.

'I had much trouble and bother about our journey. The baggage-waggon was sent on. No later news of Lestocq. They say the Russians are beset, and surrounded by the French. All are in despair. I cannot give up. The Royal children are gone, and my poor ears are resting a

little from the noise; only the two youngest remain with us.'

'January 4.

'Terrible weather. Our baggage-waggon went yesterday by Tilsit to Memel. The Englishmen and the Williams are gone. I asked the King if I was to go, and he said "yes," but not till to-morrow. They have also quite determined to move the Queen wherever it may be to, as the French are unfortunately still advancing, and she will soon be no longer safe here.'

'January 5.

'I started with my maids in the most dreadful weather. At the first stage I had to stop, as the wind and rain were so tremendous that the horses could go no further. The Queen started at twelve o'clock with Fräulein Viereck and her maid Schadow, and arrived safely at Kreuz. They say the French are already at Heilsberg.'

'January 6.

'I got up at four o'clock in the morning, but could not get on till six, and drove to Rossitten, where I wished to remain. The Royalties slept there too. The King had also left Königsberg. I could not find a room in the whole place, and

so went on to Nidden, where at last I got an icy-cold room.'

'January 7.

'General Knobelsdorf and Schroetter travelled through the night as they could find no lodging. The Englishmen had remained here; Lord Gower came to me. But the next morning neither he nor I could get any horses, and we waited for them, on this miserable January 7, with impatience till nine o'clock, when at last they were brought. There was a wild storm, with thick snow falling, and the road by the sea without any shelter from the hurricane was quite horrible. At three o'clock I arrived at Schwart, where, after much trouble and driving about, I found a modest lodging at the schoolmaster's. The Royalties also arrived soon after. The King sent me a little bouillon. The Queen, thank God, is pretty well, in spite of the cold.'

'January 8.

'I slept on the ground, as there was no bed to be had; but nevertheless I slept very well. The King went on early; I could not get any horses till eight o'clock. At eleven o'clock we arrived at the Haff, got into a boat, and were in Memel by one o'clock. The Queen drove the

whole way, and so arrived later. As there was no chair to carry her from the carriage up the stairs, a servant took her on his arm, which gave me pain to see. She was tolerably well, thank God, and we laid her on a sofa. She occupies the same room she had five years ago. Oh! what a difference to that time, when the Emperor was here, and we spent such pleasant days with him. The Royal children dined with us, and made a perfectly fearful noise: nobody said anything to them. Napoleon has had Prince Augustus and General Tauenzien sent to Paris. The two generals, Benningsen and Buxhöwden, have dismissed Kaminskoi, as it has been discovered that he has been playing false the whole time. The French are not yet in Königsberg. The Ministers Stein and Voss are both dismissed, and Geusau also. God knows what will come of it. I live in a separate house, and have to come and go a great deal through the snow. Count Moltke arrived from Thorn, but brought no news.'

'January 10.

'I wrote a quantity of letters this morning; also to Princess Solms, then went to the Queen and remained with her till night. She is very

ailing, but, wonderful to say, the journey has not done her harm. The Princess of Orange's child has died at Freienwald, so she has gone to Berlin; and the Prince has been taken by a French officer from Freienwald to Stargard, where he is imprisoned.'

'January 12.

'Knobelsdorf and Colonel Kleist to dinner. Then Mr. Simpson came to see me, and the Prince of Courland's aide-de-camp. The French have had a little skirmish with Lieutenant Romburg and a detachment of Guards, in which the latter held his ground. It is not much, but is nevertheless an encouragement and a pleasure. The Englishmen come every day to see me. There are a great number of them here.'

'January 13.

'The Queen better. The master of the horse came to dinner. The Englishmen brought me some cheese, which I sent to the King. A letter from my daughter at last! She is quietly with the Prince Bishop in Johannisberg, but has received none of my letters. With the Queen, as usual, all day.'

'January 14.

'At dinner Lord Gower and Wilson, who

were also allowed to see the Queen for a few minutes. The Privy Councillor Stägemann, who has arrived from Berlin, says that Napoleon is in Warsaw, but does not appear, and the Poles are losing the hopes they had placed in him. Major Mathieu has gained a trifling advantage over the French.'

'January 15.

'The Queen still better. Krüdener has arrived, and came to dinner with Prittwitz and Rittberg. The King received the news that General Buxhöwden has been recalled, which he is very sorry for. Benningsen has now the entire command. Lestocq has met the enemy in a slight action, and fought them fairly. The Englishmen to tea with us.'

'January 16.

'I have a great deal to do, everything to look after, and moreover it is stormy and very cold. The Englishmen come to me every day to ask me personally how the Queen is. Thank God, she is visibly better.'

'January 17.

'The Queen went out a little for the first time. I drove with her. It did her good, but she is still, naturally, carried upstairs. The King went out sleighing, and was upset.'

‘January 18.

‘The King went to church. I went out with the Queen and Princess Charlotte in spite of the bad weather. General Köhler and Major Firch to dinner. Colonel Wilson saw the Queen to present her with the book he had written about Egypt, where he and Lord Gower had been together. Benningsten wrote to the King to-day that the whole army was collected, that he could now advance, and hoped soon to attack the enemy. May God grant it.’

‘January 19.

‘Drove out with the Queen. The King is very much put out and incensed with General Goltz, who is to have a command, but is so arrogant that they are very angry with him.’

‘January 20.

‘Colonel Wilson brought me a copying-machine for the Queen, which is very pretty and useful. He is very Prussian at heart. We heard that General Colbert had requested an interview with the King at Königsberg, and that an amnesty is offered. It is certainly not true; the news does not come from the proper quarter, and the King is rightly very angry at this rumour.

An orderly from Silesia brought me to my great joy a letter from my daughter. Contributions have been levied upon Silesia, and Breslau has been besieged, and has surrendered. Dear General Thile has the command there. I drove with the Queen; she gets a little stronger. Princess William arrived to-day with her ladies. The Prince did not come; he has remained with his command.'

'January 21.

'The Queen is very anxious to-day about Schadow, her maid, who has been ill for some time, and seems to have got a nervous fever. A Danish ship is going to sail to-day. The Queen drove with Princess William and myself to see it. We had to get out and walk a little way to the lighthouse. It was frightfully cold. The ship moved off from land, but very soon after struck on a sandbank. When we returned home the King wanted the Queen to try and walk upstairs herself. But I was very much against it, and I cannot give in to it. She is much too weak to do it, and must be carried up. The French prisoners of war arrived, and two officers with them. It is believed that a battle took place on the 19th. The guns were heard here the whole day. Bad

news in the evening : he has not granted the desired amnesty. Poor Schadow is very ill. The Queen is very anxious about her.'

'January 22.

'Schadow is past hope, and the poor Queen is in consequence very low, and has not slept. The good faithful Schadow died this evening. It is a real loss.'

'January 23.

'Both their Majesties came to breakfast with me. The Queen very sad over the death of poor good Schadow. The three Englishmen, Lord Gower, Wilson, and the ambassador Mr. Jackson, came to fetch me to go out sleighing in a large closed sleigh, which I did not like at all. The cold is so great, and the snow so deep, that nothing has ever been seen like it. Oh ! if the Russians would only fight at last, and fall upon the enemy ; but nothing is heard anywhere of an action.'

'January 24.

'Went out sleighing. General Buxhöwden arrived, and dined with us. He is on his way to his government at Riga, and from there back to St. Petersburg. Von Türck, the gentleman-in-waiting, and General Zastrow were also at dinner, and

the Queen saw them afterwards for a moment in her room. The tea is always served now in the King's apartments. I am not at all pleased just now with the ways of the two youngest ladies-in-waiting; they go their own way, and the Queen never sees them.'

'January 25.

'The cold was so great it was impossible to go to church. Countess Moltke went out sleighing with Colonel Wilson. The two youngest ladies-in-waiting gave themselves airs, and would not go with them. The King is too kind, and this want of ceremony is not becoming in them. I drove with the Queen. Princess William, Count Lottum, and Saurma came to dinner. I told Countess Tauenzien my mind, but this sort of conversation is very disagreeable to me. The rest of the day I was with the Queen.'

'January 26.

'The Queen suffering. Lord Gower's brother and Colonel Wilson, who both go to the Russian army to-morrow, came to dinner to-day. We had better news. The French are retreating. There are hopes of a decisive encounter. May God guard the Russians and support them.'

'January 28.

'Thaw and bright clear sunshine. Drove with the Queen, and saw with her the entry of some newly-formed Pomeranian battalions. It is said the Russians have gained an advantage. They have taken 300 French prisoners, and amongst them 20 officers. Alone at tea with Princess William and the Queen, in her room.'

'January 29.

'At dinner three Courlanders, who arrived to-day, and Jackson, who leaves to-morrow for London. The Russians have been attacked, and have repulsed the enemy, but have lost a great many men. One Russian general is killed, and a French general has deserted to the Russians, but he will be dismissed at once, as it is feared he may be a spy. It is said Napoleon is ill. I do not believe it. Count Lehndorff has taken a French general prisoner, and our Black Hussars have captured several guns. On the other hand, Brieg, in Silesia, has capitulated, and the Bavarians and Würtembergers have plundered, burnt, and destroyed in a frightful way, wherever they have been. It seems as if Providence had quite forsaken us, but the righteous God will yet put an end to these disorders!'

‘January 30.

‘I drove out with the Queen. She is tolerably well, and how charming she is! She is an angel! but, oh! how inexpressibly sad and unfortunate. God only knows what she suffers! In the evening at the Queen’s, as usual, with Princess William. The King and the rest drank tea in the drawing-room.’

‘January 31.

‘We had news from Lestocq that the French are retreating. Captain von Alvensleben has taken prisoner a French general, his two aides-de-camp, and thirty soldiers. They say again that Napoleon is ill. If he died, what happiness for the world! In the evening I gave a tea party. Their Majesties came, the Royal children, the ladies-in-waiting, the Englishmen from the Embassy, the Russians, the Offenbergs, Schladen, Jagow, Zastrow, and Buch. It lasted till nine o’clock.’

‘February 1.

‘Terrible weather. The dinner now is something frightful, on account of the incredible noise the dear children make. The King permits anything. He is too kind, and his indulgence drives me to despair. In the evening we had tea with a

merchant, Argelander, in whose house the Princes live. Princess William, the Offenbergs, and many people were there, and all were bored to a degree never attained before.'

'February 2.

'Lestocq makes little advances, but what good does that do us? We require a great battle to annihilate the French, who are concentrating themselves more and more. May God deliver us from them! Herr von Klüx came back with letters from the Emperor Alexander. He is charmed with him, but unfortunately all the Russians are not so well disposed to us as the Emperor is.'

'February 3.

'I wrote to my people at Gross-Giewitz, and they have certainly written to me, but unhappily I have had no news from them for a long time. The letters do not arrive. There was a great tea at the Queen's to-day, for the English and Russians, which lasted till eight o'clock.'

'February 4.

'Benningsen has taken prisoner a French officer, who was carrying letters from Napoleon to Bernadotte, in which he says he will cross the Vistula with two armies, and give battle on the 3rd. But

perhaps the whole letter is only a trick. May God be our protection against this villain! The country of Schwerin is laid under contributions; the Duke is in Altona. My grandson has lost a great deal.'

' February 5.

' To-day was Countess Tauenzien's birthday. They gave her a little *déjeuner*, and she was much delighted. At dinner the Radziwills, some officers, and Krusemark. Klüx has been appointed aide-de-camp. No news from Lestocq.'

' February 6.

' The Queen went out sleighing for a little while. The master of the horse drove her and Princess William. The Russians have been beaten in a slight engagement. Napoleon has got between their two armies, and is now seven miles from Königsberg. Is not the conduct of the Russians incredible? Prince Radziwill has taken the Queen's portrait, but I do not think it is like.'

' February 7.

' The King desired that I should give a *déjeuner* to the Offenbergs. I invited them, and also both their Majesties, the Englishmen, &c. A ship from Copenhagen brought Lord Gower, despatches, and

letter from his Queen to ours. A fight took place with the Russians on the 3rd. First it was said that they had won, but now that they have had to retreat, and are at Wehlau, to take up a better position. Our Russians at the Embassy here say a battle must positively be fought. The French are destroying all our magazines. In short, things cannot go on so. And added to this are all the follies that so many of our side have perpetrated. It is perfectly incredible what has gone on in all the fortresses they have given up. The Queen went out sleighing for a little, and took the pretty Saxon Frau von Lindenau with her, who came to me after dinner, as well as young Hardenberg, who wants to get an appointment—brother of Countess Hardenberg, who was at Court.'

' February 8.

' Sunday. We all went to church in spite of the cold—both their Majesties, the Royal children, and the whole Court—to give thanks for the recovery of the Queen. After church drove with the Queen. After dinner I drove in a little Lithuanian sledge, which amused everybody very much. Tea at Princess William's. The Russians are close to Königsberg. A battle is daily hoped for.'

‘ February 9.

‘ Drove with the Queen to the harbour to see a ship set sail, which belongs to a merchant named Rupert, and is going to Copenhagen and England. We got out at the lighthouse, and it was very cold. It is true we were in a warmed room, but it lasted a long time. The King drove me back alone. The Queen with Princess William. He is very anxious and uneasy, and fears the next news. Lestocq writes that his men are terribly exhausted with the march. God alone can support us. G——— was in a temper like a bulldog. I got out of his way, and did not sit by him at dinner. The Queen dined with us for the first time, but did not remain to supper.’

‘ February 10.

‘ A very sanguinary battle really took place on the 7th and 8th, in the neighbourhood of Eylau, but the Russians have again had to retreat; they say, however, in order, and not defeated. An officer brought the news, and said the French had lost 12,000 men, and the Russians only 8,000. The allied armies had done marvels of valour, and had taken twelve eagles. In the evening a second officer came, who was taking these eagles to St. Petersburg, and one of them was brought to

the Queen. This is all very fine and honourable, but it is no victory. This second officer also said that the French were retreating, and that their Guard was almost entirely destroyed. I received a letter from Wilson, and he speaks of the battle as a complete victory. I was beside myself with joy, as were all of us, only the King remained gloomy and incredulous. The Queen went out for the first time on foot, but only to Princess William's. The Radziwills arrived from Königsberg in great tribulation. Königsberg will in a very little while have fallen into the hands of the enemy.'

'February 11.

'The Queen came, and found Lord Gower, Count Henckel and Tauenzien with me, with whom she conversed for awhile. Then she drove with Lindenau in a sledge, and we had company to dinner. A despatch from Lestocq to the King describes the battle as won, and yet the Russians continue to retreat. Baron Benckendorf, General B——'s aide-de-camp, who has been sent to St. Petersburg, passed through here, and said also they had lost a great many men. He was confused and reserved, and I did not like what he said. The King and the Princes, Zastrow and Benckendorf,

drank tea with the Queen. The rest all below in the drawing-room. The Queen did not come in to supper.'

'February 12.

'The Queen came early to me on foot. I presented Madame Hellmuth to her. Then came Lord Gower and Baron Schöneberg. Our good Major Voss was killed at the battle of Narew, for which I am very sorry. It is said that General Benningsen is now at the gates of Königsberg, but the French continue to advance. Another battle is expected.'

'I cannot conceive why this general is always retreating, and now actually upon Königsberg. If he is beaten, the poor town is lost.'

'February 13.

'I had a letter from Königsberg, from Major Bombelles, who has taken some prisoners, without losing one of his men. He says that the Russians are stationed close to the town, and the attack of the French is hourly expected.'

'I drove with the Queen and the Duke of Coburg, who is ill. He knows now of his father's death. His health seems to be better. The Queen brought me home, and went out walking

for a little while with Princess William. The two youngest ladies-in-waiting came to me to-day, for the first time since we have been here. I had not concealed my surprise that they had never been to see me. But to-day I had unfortunately still more reason to be displeased at their conduct, and after dinner Countess Tauenzien asked me if I was angry with her, and I told her my mind most seriously.'

' February 14.

'The Queen came to me early, and I presented to her the minister who had preached on Sunday, then I went out walking with her and Princess William. The Russian General Korff came to dinner. He has been sent here on account of his wounds, and I like him very much. He does not appear to agree at all with Benningsen, who has retreated into the town of Königsberg. The first part of the evening I am always upstairs with the Queen, till she goes to sleep ; the second part downstairs in the drawing-room, with the King and the ladies-in-waiting, industriously making lint.'

' February 15.

'Dreadful weather. The Queen came to me at eleven o'clock with the two eldest Princes, and the

King also came later. At dinner we had Krüdener and the Englishmen. Le Brun is in the suburbs of Königsberg. The arrival of a French general, sent here by Napoleon, has been announced. No one knows what for. Schroetter thinks with proposals of peace. The idea of thinking of peace now!

‘In the evening the Radziwills, General Korff, and Prince Schöneberg of the Garde du Corps, came in.’

‘February 16.

‘A letter from Wilson. He is pleased with the Russians, but we are not at all so here. A perfectly atrocious French general, of the name of Bertrand, arrived to-day. Klüx brought him here, and he saw the King for a moment before dinner. In the evening he insisted upon being presented to the Queen, who was as furious with him as I was. He has a repulsive countenance, and ventured to say to her that “Napoleon hoped she would use her influence to hasten the conclusion of peace, and hoped also that she would not keep up any unjust prejudices against him.” The Queen answered him with the greatest mildness and dignity, “that women had no voice in war and peace.” We were horrified at his manner, and

his whole proceedings. Count Narischkin arrived later, carrying to St. Petersburg the trophies daily captured by the Cossacks. If Benningsen would do so it would be better, but he is still quietly in Königsberg.

'I hear that Princess Solms is gone to Holstein. The Queen came to me, and I presented Frau von Schroeder to her, and then went out walking with her. In the evening the Frenchman came to supper, at which the Queen also appeared.'

'February 17.

'Köhler and Kalkreuth to dinner. The Cossacks daily gain little advantages and make captures. The King has sent Colonel Kleist to Napoleon. I should not have done so. The King sent for Rüchel, and had a conference with him, Zastrow, and Hardenberg, about the proposals of this Bertrand. God grant that they may not make any advances to Napoleon, nor give in now to ill-luck. Rüchel told me that Benningsen was all right, but that he had lost so terribly at Eylau that he could do nothing more. The French at the same time came off very badly.'

'February 20.

'Another conference. The Queen told me

she had implored the King to stand firm, and not to conclude peace now. She was very much pleased with Hardenberg, but the other two are very wavering.'

'February 21.

'The French are retreating; our good brave troops and the Cossacks are continually doing marvels of daring and valour. The French have left over 1,000 wounded in Eylau alone. Thank God that all proposals from Napoleon, whose only purpose is to cause the utter destruction of the country, are refused by our King with a firmness which is the more beautiful and admirable that everything turns to misfortune, and our bitter calamities seem to have no end.'

'February 22.

'The Queen came to me, with the two little Princesses, and met Lord Gower, Hardenberg and Schladen. Then we went out walking with the two Princesses. In the evening I received at tea. Their Majesties came, six Russian officers, Krüdener, the Englishmen, the Mirbachs, my hostess and her husband, all the Princes, Hufeland, Schöneberg, Hardenberg, Zastrow, Schladen, &c. &c..

‘ February 23.

‘ Birthday of the dear little Princess Alexandrina, who is four years old. I gave her an amber necklace. Benningsen quits Königsberg, to follow up the French, who continue to retreat.’

‘ February 24.

‘ The Queen came to me to-day, as she does every morning, remained an hour, and then I went out walking with her. The Russians have really left Königsberg and followed the enemy. If they could only get up with them, and throw them into the Vistula !

‘ Poor Prince William has now got nervous fever. At tea we had Major Goltz, Lindenau, and the Knoblauchs.’

‘ February 25.

‘ Benckendorf brought news from St. Petersburg that a number of troops, also the Guards, were on the march. The Emperor’s horses are already gone. God grant he may soon come.’

‘ February 26.

‘ Constant snowstorms. All drove to the shore to see a great English ship which is lying in the harbour. The Radziwills, the Duke of Coburg,

and Princess William came in the evening. Was-siltschikoff arrived from St. Petersburg, had a long conversation alone with the King, and then continued his journey at once.'

'February 27.

'Lord Gower came this morning, and brought me twelve pairs of beautiful English silk stockings. I gave four pairs of them to the Queen, and two pairs to Princess William. Uwaroff, the Emperor's aide-de-camp, passed through here on his way to the army, and came to see me. I was very glad to see him again.'

'February 28.

'Prince William is better. He has never been in danger.'

'March 1.

'The Queen and all of us went to church, in spite of the severe cold. It was a thanksgiving for the victory of Eylau. The sermon was tolerable, the prayers very fine. The minister is to go to Potsdam. In the evening 400 prisoners arrived, escorted by Russians. They were placed for the night in the Reformed Church, and went on next morning.'

'Walked with the Queen and the little Princesses. Prince William is much better.'

'March 3.

'Prince Bagration arrived from St. Petersburg, came at once to me, and dined with the Queen. The King was unwell, and in bed. Bagration is not handsome, but manly and soldierly, and looks fitted to command. He received the Black Eagle, and went on in the evening to the army. The French are in the neighbourhood of Elbing, and our troops are not far from them.'

'March 4.

'The French have driven back our advanced guard. It was not an affair of much importance, but it is very sad nevertheless. The Queen always spends the afternoon now with Princess William. Kalkreuth has left for Dantzig, as General Manstein has fractured his foot.'

'March 5.

'Three French deserters arrived here, whom we saw. The news from the army is bad. The Russian advanced guard has suffered a check. The French have received reinforcements, and it is now greatly feared that it will come to a battle. Colonel Kleist saw Napoleon in Osterode, where at his special command the town has been completely plundered. What a monster this man is!'

'March 6.

'I wrote letters to my daughter and my friends, though I know that I can receive no answers. They will not be allowed to pass, as the enemy stops all communication, and one hears nothing of one's dearest friends. Chazot arrived from Dantzig, and two other Russians came to dinner. Both very pleasant, and one of them, Uwaroff, extremely handsome. Letters from the army say that our troops and the Russians have gained a slight advantage, but nothing of real importance. The poor King is again very wavering and irresolute, and has lost heart and courage.'

'March 7.

'Wassiltschikoff came from the army, on his way back to St. Petersburg. He came to me for an hour, and seems to be our friend. He hates Napoleon, and asserts that Russia will do everything for us that she can; but we cannot count upon the Austrians, they would do nothing for us.

'Our troops have been victorious in a trifling affair in Pomerania, but in other places we have lost several detachments. May God be our defence; without Him we are lost!'

'Old Kalkreuth is on his way to Dantzig, but

the French are surrounding the town, and it is not known how he can possibly manage to get in.'

'March 8.

'The Duchess of Würtemberg, the Duke of Coburg's sister, arrived to-day to see him. We had her, the Russian ladies, and all the others to tea. They played commerce.'

'March 9.

'The Minister Voss has arrived, and assures me that things are not so bad as we thought. If God willed it, and our good angel, the faithful Emperor, stands by us, we might yet perhaps be saved.

'I had a letter from my daughter, of February 16. All Silesia is lost, the fortresses are given over by the commandants. It is horrible!'

'March 10.

'Birthday of my beloved angel Queen. She is thirty-one years of age. She was very low to-day, but better than yesterday. Great *déjeuner* with all the princes and all the officers. It was served on two big tables. The Duchess of Würtemberg, Coburg, the Russian ladies, the ministers and generals, all were there. After dinner,

five ladies of the battalions were presented. I had had procured for me from St. Petersburg, by Countess Grote, as a present to the Queen, some of the famous Mecca balsam, and a very pretty pair of lapis-lazuli earrings. In the evening there was a great tea. They played commerce. The town was illuminated.'

March 11.

' My old birthday, which God has permitted me once more to live to. It is the seventy-eighth. God grant me strength to bear all adversity with good-will and patience, and, above all, may He give me grace to remember that my end is approaching, and draws daily nearer, that so long as I remain in this world, I may strive to be helpful and useful to everybody. Their Majesties gave a *déjeuner* at my house, to which all the world was invited. I received a number of presents, and attentions of all sorts. There were a great many people to dinner and tea, in my honour, and they overwhelmed me with kindness and goodness.'

March 12.

' Countess Moltke's birthday. I gave her a set of black lace. The Duchess of Würtemberg is a charming person, and her lady, Frau von Bussy, is equally so.'

‘ March 13.

‘ Prince Trubetzkoi arrived from St. Petersburg, and assured me that the beloved and good Emperor would come shortly, and then all would go better with the army. I received a very amiable letter from Bagration. Frau von Lestocq announces the confinement of Princess Solms. She has a son.’

‘ March 14.

‘ I went with their Majesties to the lighthouse. A number of English ships had arrived, but the storm was so violent, and the sea ran so high, that two of them could not get into the harbour. Trubetzkoi, Krusemark, and Lottum at dinner. The first then went on to the army. The French are besieging Dantzig.’

‘ March 15.

‘ In the evening a great tea at the Queen’s, at which all the Royal children were present. They had music, and the dear children danced a little. Then they played little *jeux d'esprit*. Lord Gower has gone to the army, to speak to Uwaroff.’

‘ March 16.

‘ The Saxons, Würtembergers, and French have all concentrated themselves round Dantzig. There are great fears for the town.’

‘March 17.

‘Uwalieff arrived from St. Petersburg, on his way to join the army. He says the Grand Duke is on the march, with the Guards and all the troops which the good faithful Emperor can by any possibility put in motion. What an army! In the evening again the Duchess of Würtemberg, Coburg, Radziwill, and Princess William. Always those everlasting *jeux d'esprit*, which I particularly dislike, and in which in reality very little “esprit” prevails.’

‘March 18.

‘In spite of the snowstorms, both their Majesties drove to the harbour, and went on board an English ship, to inspect it. At dinner, Uwalieff, Krusemark, and General Korff, who was in a very bad humour. No news, except that the enemy is always advancing.’

‘March 19.

‘The poor King was unwell, and looked very ill. In the evening tea at the Radziwills, in honour of the eldest Princess, whose birthday it is.’

‘March 20.

‘Herr von Hugo came to see me. I cannot bear him. The King still unwell, and very sad

and depressed. He could not come to dinner. The Prince of Orange arrived from Dantzig. It is feared the French will blockade it. He looked terribly ill, and was not very well received by the King. A Russian courier passed through here on his way to St. Petersburg. They have seized an aide-de-camp of Bernadotte's, with letters for Mortier, commanding him to give up the siege of Stralsund and go to Colberg. Three hundred Saxons have deserted before Dantzig.'

' March 21.

' As usual, the Queen was with me in the morning, and then I walked with her. She spoke of the good Hardenberg, who, it seems to me, would be very glad if they would let him go. It is certain that he cannot prevail, and his advice is not really listened to. For ten days he has come every morning with Voss and Schroetter; there are constant councils, but I fear little comes of them.'

' March 22.

' Little Prince William's birthday. The King and Queen went early to him in his apartments. I gave him a big mug. We dined in his honour in the big hall, with the Radziwills, the Duchess of Würtemberg, Coburg, all the Princes, the

officers of the Garde du Corps, the Prince of Orange, and all the suites.'

'March 23.

'The Queen told me she should be obliged to go to Tilsit or Georgenburg, to see the Russian Guards march past, but she is afraid in this weather it will not be prudent of me to accompany her. I would not hear, however, of remaining behind. If the Emperor comes with his Guards, I will positively go with them.'

'March 24.

'Hunerbein arrived, who has been sent to Sweden to procure arms. The Russians are still in the same position. General Roquette, having sent back the Cossacks, is to blame for the loss of the coast, which they would have assisted him in defending. It looks very bad for Dantzig. I am sorry for the Prince of Orange. The Queen plays a great deal now every evening. The King is undergoing a cure, and cannot dine with us, but walks with the Queen every day.'

'March 26.

'We were all very quiet to prepare ourselves for to-morrow. No news from the seat of war.'

‘March 27.

‘We performed our devotions—the Queen, the ladies-in-waiting, and I. First came the preparation, and then the Holy Communion. The Duchess of Würtemberg came to take leave of me. She is going back to Prague. The Duke of Coburg has got the Black Eagle, and goes again to Riga. A letter from Wittgenstein, who is in Homburg.’

‘March 29.

‘Easter-day. We went to church, in terrible cold. Some newly-formed battalions passed through here, and we went to see them embark. They are going to join the army by water. Count Chazot says the Emperor is coming in a few days, but nothing will induce the King to believe it. I have received a letter from my daughter by an orderly. She is still with her faithful friend, the Prince Bishop of Breslau, Hohenlohe, sometimes in Johannisberg, sometimes in Freienwald, where they can live cheaper than at the great castle. If the Emperor comes, Countess Moltke and I will give him up our residence.’

‘March 31.

‘Their Majesties witnessed the embarkation of the newly-formed troops which are being sent to

Dantzig. The Emperor really comes on the 2nd. I am moving so as to leave him the house where I now live. At Soltikoff's in the evening.'

'April 1.

'The King started for Polangen, the other side of the frontier, to meet the Emperor. He came back about five o'clock. He had found the Emperor at Polangen, and the latter comes here tomorrow. Countess Moltke and I move out.'

'April 2.

'We dressed ourselves, went to their Majesties, and awaited the Emperor, who arrived at eleven o'clock. Always the same incomparably charming man. Full of kindness and cordiality. He embraced me with warm feeling and much emotion. There is no one in the world like him! Count Tolstoy, Wassiltschikoff, and Dr. Well are with him. He remained an hour with us, and then every one retired. At two o'clock there was a dinner with all the Princes, the Ministers, Kru-dener, &c. General Kohler, Colonel Kreuse, Boll-berg, and Major Schöler are in waiting on the Emperor. After dinner the Emperor went to Hardenberg's. In the evening the Royalties drank

tea by themselves. The town was illuminated, and their Majesties drove about to see it. Then the Princes, the Oranges and their suites, everybody in short, came again to supper; it lasted till midnight.'

'April 3.

'The Emperor came at eleven o'clock, and breakfasted with the King and Queen. The dinner was just the same as yesterday. The Emperor is really exactly the same as formerly, unchanged in manner, in expression, and in cordiality, only perhaps a little more artificial, and rather more occupied with the young ladies. But he is very gentle and agreeable. He had a great many people to speak to, and therefore went to his own apartments after dinner, at five o'clock, and did not return till eight. Supper was at nine, and at ten o'clock he took leave, and travelled on through the night. He gave very handsome presents to the four gentlemen who had been in waiting on him, and to me he gave the hope of soon seeing him again. Their Majesties go to A—— to see the Russian Guards. Now that I have seen the Emperor I do not go with them.'

'April 4.

'The Emperor only started at four o'clock in

the morning. Their Majesties at seven, with Countess Moltke and Truchsess. I went back to my former house. A number of the Emperor's carriages and horses passed through, and servants and attendants without end. Countess Tauenzien was very unhappy at not going with them, and came to dinner and supper with me, to console herself.'

'April 7.

'I got a letter from Buch. On the arrival of their Majesties, the Emperor had had the Guards paraded before them. There was military music, and everything very bright and pretty. I am very sorry not to have been there, but I did not go on account of the Royal children. In the evening I was with Princess William, who is very kind and amiable.'

'April 9.

'We had letters from Jagow. The troops had marched past beautifully, and their Majesties had been much pleased. They sit down at nine o'clock to dinner every day. Two generals are in waiting on the King. They go on on the 11th, and the Queen remains two or three days at Königsberg *en route*.'

‘April 13.

‘The Queen left Quidullen on the 10th for Königsberg. The Emperor and the King went together to Bartenstein, in the centre of the cantonments. Napoleon is said to be retreating and recrossing the Vistula. But I have great fears for Dantzig.’

‘April 18.

‘Letters from the ladies-in-waiting at Königsberg say that the beloved Queen is well. She lives with the Princess Solms, the others at the castle. They are all very happy over the Swedish success. One breathes again, now that better news has come. The gallant Swedes are now on the march to Stettin. Two English men-of-war have arrived before Dantzig. Rüchel has had some ships armed at Pillau, and sent to the coast, and everything is successful. Krüdener tells me that Hardenberg has been made Prime Minister, which I am very glad of.’

‘May 15.

‘The little Princess Alexandrina is not well. Hufeland says it is measles. Little Prince Charles must be separated from her.’

‘May 16.

‘The poor child is very ill. Hufeland and I have both written to the Queen.’

'May 17.

'The child is a little quieter to-day. The measles have not yet come out.'

'May 19.

'The little invalid is better. I dine every day with the Royal children, and am with them nearly the whole day.'

'May 25.

'Thank God, my dear little Princess is better. Lestocq has got the Black Eagle. Each company that was at Eylau has received a month's extra pay, and those men who distinguished themselves get medals. It is very nice of the King.'

'May 30.

'The terrible news came of the surrender of Dantzig. Kalkreuth capitulated on the 24th. The troops marched out with arms and baggage, and the inhabitants are to remain free of contributions. But the enemy's promises are not to be believed; they keep to no contracts. It is thought that Kalkreuth could have held out longer.'

'June 4.

'The King is still in Königsberg. He will wait there for the Dantzig troops, to see and thank

them. The Emperor is in Tilsit. Fifty of our imprisoned soldiers have been put into a Dutch regiment. They sent a peasant to Colberg to beg that they might be attacked, which was done, and those who were not wounded could throw down their arms, and surrender themselves. They were sent to Königsberg in their French uniforms, and received with rejoicings.'

'June 7.

'Princess Alexandrina got up again to-day, for the first time.'

'June 8.

'Benningsen attacked the French on the 5th, defeated Ney, and made 1,000 prisoners. God be praised! He has blessed the right cause!'

'June 10.

'My beloved Queen arrived here again safely this evening, at seven o'clock. She has grown rather thinner, but otherwise tolerably well. The Russians have gained two victories, but unhappily that is not nearly enough to help us. The poor Queen is full of anxiety. She saw Lord Gower and Pembroke this evening.'

'June 11.

'I remained the whole morning with the

Queen. She is always the same. There is no one like her: she is so singularly good and excellent. In the evening the Queen rode with Lindenau, Prince William, and Radziwill.'

'June 12.

'Benningsen has beaten the French at Heilsberg. Our troops fought nobly. The Queen was quite beside herself with joy. The King writes very joyfully about this victory.'

'June 13.

'My beloved Queen is so happy! She went with the Royal children to see an English frigate. The captain took her there in a boat. The weather was fine, but sultry. She was received with a *déjeûner* on board.'

'Benningsen has retreated upon Königsberg. Is he afraid of a second battle? He never follows up a victory, and he never follows up the defeated enemy, or any advantage he may have acquired; or have we been deceived, and was this no victory, only a new catastrophe?'

'June 14.

'The Queen came to me early, in great trouble and uneasiness. The King writes that he is very much displeased with Benningsen, who has lost

every advantage from these so-called victories by his retreat.

‘A number of new Englishmen came to tea. Round games were played as usual.’

‘June 15.

‘The poor Queen is in great anxiety. She came to me early, and later we had news that Benningsen had retreated upon Wehlau, and Lestocq upon Königsberg. It all sounds very bad. God alone can still help us. The King arrived at three o’clock, and their Majesties dined alone with the children. A courier from St. Petersburg arrived after dinner, and told us that affairs stood very badly. The King was very gracious and cordial to me. He looks well, but is very sad and downcast, and believes that everything is now lost.’

‘June 16.

‘This has been a terrible day. We heard that the French were marching upon Königsberg, and that Lestocq had been forced to retreat, and after dinner Major von Rauch came in with the dreadful news that the enemy had already marched into Königsberg. Benningsen had lost the battle of Friedland on the 14th, and Lestocq had retired to Labiau. The Queen was in despair. The

King quite brokenhearted. Hardenberg alone calm, but also much depressed. Their Majesties remained alone with the Royal children, both afternoon and evening. The household remained by themselves.'

'June 17.

'We were in anxious expectation of further news, but no other came than that Benningson had retreated to Tilsit. Rüchel arrived yesterday quite late. The Queen then came to me, and spoke with the greatest emotion, but, as usual, without the slightest bitterness. The King also came later, and complained of Hardenberg. I defended him, which only irritated the King still more. Hufeland was there, but kept silence.'

'June 18.

'Still without detailed news of the army. Rüchel came to dinner. He is so vehement, that one cannot be careful enough to keep out of his way. Their Majesties came to me in the morning. The Englishmen also came, and Buch, who is always faithful to me. We had a number of officers at dinner who had been imprisoned and exchanged—Oppen, Witzleben, Colonel York, and Orgow. The poor sick and wounded

Russians, who had remained in Königsberg, also arrived. We went to see them disembark. The sight of them went to my heart. Brinkmann, the Swedish ambassador, had an audience. Prince William, Prince Henry, and General Lestocq also arrived in the evening.'

'June 19.

'News at last from the Emperor, who is very much displeased with Benningsen. He goes to Szawadoff, in Russian Lithuania, where the King will also go to-morrow to see him, but is very much put out that the meeting should be in Poland instead of in Prussia. Their Majesties and a heap of people were with me in the morning. Henrici came from the army. He also is very much annoyed with Benningsen.

'I received a letter from Wilson, who is also furious with him, but this letter is written before the General's last blunders.

'We went to the citadel. One sees nothing but sick and wounded Russians, who are carried through, and spend the night here. Memel still divides the two armies, and we remain here as long as we can, until the latest possible moment.

'I took leave of the King, who goes this evening. Hardenberg has married a person of the

name of Schönenmann; with whom he has been living for years past. I think it is very right of him, at any rate better than the former position. Only he, Kleist, and Jagow go with the King ; all the others remain here.'

'June 20.

'The Queen was with me the whole morning, and spoke to every one who from time to time came to see me. The Radziwills, the Englishmen, the Goltzens of St. Petersburg, and Senfft, who had come from Constantinople. Kalkreuth goes to the Emperor. I entreated him earnestly to tell him, for God's sake, not to conclude any peace now. They talk of an armistice, but it does not seem to me very likely. The Princes, the Englishmen, and Lestocq came to dinner and tea. My beloved Wilson arrived ; he is very indignant about Benningsen, and above all he is against peace. Schladen goes to the army.'

'June 21.

'We live on with oppressed hearts. No news. Only rumours of an armistice, which I hardly doubt now. Russian troops pass through here without end, and besides them the long trains of sick and wounded, who are being sent home. Oh ! that peace may only not be made in this

moment of deep dejection. The Queen was with me again in the afternoon, also Princess William, the Radziwills, the Englishmen, and the officers of the Garde du Corps. There is a great deal to do in cheering and encouraging them all. The Princes of Pless and Hohenzollern were also with me to-day.'

'June 22.

'The King writes quite disconsolate letters to the Queen. The Emperor is furious with Benningsen, but does not take the command away from him. An armistice has been proposed, but Napoleon requires Graudenz, Colberg, and Pillau as securities. God only knows what will come of it! The Emperor and King have gone to another place, of which I do not know the name. The Queen is not well, but was with me in the morning. Rüchel, the Princes, Praschma, Kiesewetter, the pretty Lindenau, and the Duke and Duchess of Holstein dined with us.'

'June 23.

'Dreadful weather, constant rain and wind. Nevertheless the Queen came to me as usual, and then I went back with her. Benningsen has concluded an armistice of four weeks. The Emperor has given him his sanction. The Queen and all of us

are in despair about it! How painful—this last blow! Merciful God, wilt thou place no bounds to our suffering through this monster?’

‘June 24.

‘A letter arrived from the King. He is still with the Emperor, and submits to everything in the deepest despondency.’

‘June 25.

‘Increasing rain and wind. A heap of people, generals and officers to dinner. In the evening they all came to me. People came to tea without end; they played Boston and round games. All the Princes, foreigners and officers, came, and it was tremendously crowded.

‘It is feared that a meeting is impending between the monarchs and Napoleon.’

‘June 26.

‘To-day was a very sad day for our poor Queen, but also for me, and for all who love their Fatherland. A meeting has taken place between the three monarchs. The place where they met is a little house on the bridge before Tilsit. The poor Queen cried a long time. The Englishmen were quite beside themselves. Oh! how unhappy I am over this end of all hope!’

‘ June 27.

‘ The Queen had a letter of yesterday, when the meeting was to take place. Napoleon had already had one alone with the Emperor Alexander, on the 25th. The King writes quite distractedly. Napoleon has demanded of him that Hardenberg and Rüchel shall be sent away, and that alone shows one what to expect. Rüchel, the Chancellor Goltz, and Schüler came to me. A head cook and an under one have been sent to Tilsit.’

‘ June 28.

‘ A letter came to-day from the King to the Queen, about the meeting on the 26th. This miserable Napoleon treated the King with deliberate negligence and coldness, and he writes very excitedly and indignantly. Two little houses had been erected on the bridge over the Memel ; in one were the two Emperors, in the other the King. What insolence to him ! The two Emperors also dined together in Tilsit, whilst our King had to remain alone in a village, a mile from the town. What terrible conditions of peace shall we have after a prelude of such deliberate hostility and insolence ! ’

'June 29.

'The Queen is better to-day. The King has dined with Napoleon, but still lives in the village of Picktupönen. He has sent for some regiments to come there, as each of the sovereigns has a number of troops with him. The Queen has the Princes, generals, and foreigners with her every day, and always goes in the evening to the Radzivills.'

'July 1.

'The Queen had two letters, one after the other, from the King. He dines every day with the Emperor and Napoleon, who is now rather more courteous, but on the whole he is not much pleased with him. It has been suggested whether the Queen could not do good by going, but I hope that will not be done. In the evening, the Queen drove with the children and the suite to the frigate. I remained at home alone, which was a great favour to me. A crowd of people with me the whole morning as usual; it sometimes makes me feel quite giddy. The Queen received letters which were not very comforting. Providence is bringing us to the dust! After dinner came some Mamelukes, Bashibazouks, and Cossacks, sent by Platow for the Queen to see.'

‘July 3.

‘We received orders from the King to go to Tilsit, and that to-morrow. All are in utter despair! Countess Tauenzien, I, and Buch are to be in attendance.’

‘July 4.

‘Started at eight o’clock in the morning with heavy hearts. We stopped half way to take some soup, and there met Colonel Podewills and Major Pirch. When we changed horses the Queen received a letter from the King, telling her that he must dismiss Hardenberg, as Napoleon peremptorily demanded it. How shameful and degrading even this is! At last we arrived in the village of Picktupönen; we are well lodged at the house of the clergyman of the parish; Colonel Kleist received us, and Hardenberg came soon after, but he is quite in despair. The good God will surely, however, not forsake us! The King was at Tilsit, and only returned at eleven o’clock at night; he lives in another house. I did not see him again. Count Goltz takes Hardenberg’s work for the present. Baum is to come. The Emperor Alexander behaves with more than weakness; it is painful to say so.’

‘July 5.

‘The Queen, thank God, was pretty well.

The King's house is exactly opposite ours. In the morning Benningsen, Uwaroff, and some of our generals came to visit the Queen. I confess that the meeting with the first-named was very disagreeable to me. He was admitted to the Queen, but she only saw him for a moment and dismissed him almost immediately. Kalkreuth had written that when the Queen came to Tilsit, Napoleon would visit her there, and that she would be asked to dine with him at nine o'clock in the evening, and further that I was to accompany her. The Emperor Alexander came in the course of the morning, and had a long conversation with the Queen, at which the worthy Hardenberg was also present. He dined with us at the King's, as did Hardenberg, Uwaroff, and our generals and gentlemen. During dinner came the master of the horse, Caulaincourt, sent by Napoleon to make his compliments to the Queen. I rose from table to receive him; a little later the Queen came also and was very civil to him. He only came to deliver Napoleon's compliments and inquiries after her health. When he was gone the Queen and I went back to their Majesties, and it was decided not to go to Tilsit to-night, which I was very glad of, as it would have shown

too much eagerness. The King went back there towards evening with the Emperor. We drank tea with the gentlemen and the Duke and Duchess of Holstein, who are still here because they cannot get horses to continue their journey. Herr von Buch was sent to Napoleon in the Queen's name; when he returned he said that certainly Napoleon had been very civil to him, but still he was not satisfied with his reception.'

'July 6.

'We dined at twelve. Uwaroff, Benningsen, and Manteuffel then came to the Queen, and she kept them with her for a long time. At four o'clock we set out with an escort of the Guards across the flying bridge, arrived at Tilsit at five, and alighted at the King's quarters. A quarter of an hour later came Napoleon. I received him with Countess Tauenzien at the foot of the staircase. He is excessively ugly, with a flat, swollen, sallow face; he is very corpulent besides, short, and entirely without figure; his great round eyes roll gloomily about, the expression of his features is severe, he looks like the incarnation of fate. Only his mouth is well shaped, and his teeth are good also. He was extremely polite, talked to the Queen for a long time alone, and then went

away. Towards eight o'clock we went to him, as out of consideration for the Queen he had had dinner earlier than usual. At table he was in a very good humour, and talked a great deal to me. After dinner he had a long conversation with the Queen, who seemed also pretty well satisfied with the result. May God grant that it may do some good ! We returned to Picktupönen at midnight, and afterwards the Grand Duke Constantine and his aide-de-camp came to see the Queen. There was a terrible bustle and confusion ; Hardenberg went away, and we only went to our rooms towards morning.'

'July 7.

'I wrote letters to Memel. Then came the Duke of Holstein, who is unendurable. Platow, the Hetman of the Cossacks, came to dinner with his aide-de-camp, who is also his interpreter. He is a remarkably tall, dark man, with a very good countenance, very complimentary, but affected ; he promised at last to send me his portrait. Brinkmann, Schladen, and Holstein also came to dinner. At four we drove through the camp of the Cossacks, Kalmucks, and Bashibazouks, who look like Chinese, and the Cossacks sang very nicely to us. As it was stormy, we could only

pass very slowly over the flying bridge. When we alighted at the King's quarters, we heard from him that Napoleon had already recalled everything that he had promised the Queen yesterday, and had even gone further in the rigour of his demands than he had done before his meeting with her. M. de Talleyrand is said to be the cause of this. Napoleon did not come to the Queen, although he twice drove past her house, and we went downstairs each time in vain, expecting that he would come in. General Barbier came late to invite the Queen to dinner. We drove there immediately, and Barbier accompanied the Queen. Napoleon appeared confused, and at the same time looked malicious and spiteful. I tried to keep at a distance from him, and succeeded. The Grand Duke of Berg talked mostly to me, and made a pleasant impression upon me. We soon sat down to dinner. I did not speak a word during the whole meal, and the conversation was altogether very brief and constrained. After dinner the Queen again conversed apart with Napoleon ; on taking leave, she said to him that she went away feeling deeply that he should have deceived her. My poor Queen, she is quite in despair ! Duroc was very sad ; she repeated

to him what she had said to Napoleon at parting.

‘I said to the Grand Duke of Berg that the days succeeded one another, but unfortunately without resembling each other, and he answered, “Unfortunately it is so here,” and so we returned.

‘The Emperor Alexander came to see the Queen for a moment, and at midnight we were at home again.’

‘July 8.

‘This morning I had the Holsteins, who worry and bore me; then came Korff and Pahlen, and lastly the Emperor Alexander, who also remained to dinner. Prince William had arrived, and he, Brinkmann, and Schladen came to dinner. The wretch takes from us the whole of Westphalia, Magdeburg, Altmark, Halberstadt, and Posen; in short, hardly anything remains to the King. Merciful God, put an end at last to the life of this dreadful man!

‘After dinner came Duroc to offer Napoleon’s compliments and farewell to the Queen; she told him also that she never could have believed it possible to be so deceived.

‘The King and Prince William drove to Tilsit, and Buch was sent there also from the Queen to

return the Emperor's civilities. He received from Napoleon a handsome snuff-box with his portrait, but why he should have got it I really do not know. The King came back at nine o'clock ; short and sharp work had been made of everything ; they dined with Napoleon earlier than usual, and he did not even take leave of the King afterwards. I forgot to say that one of the marshals and General Barbier attended the Queen to and from Napoleon both days. This evening all the Russian generals were presented to the Queen, and at ten o'clock they all went back to Tilsit. They say that Napoleon goes to-morrow, but I do not believe it.'

'July 9.

'The King dined alone with the Princes, his brothers, and at three o'clock drove to Tilsit, as Napoleon, who goes to Königsberg this evening, wished to see him again. When the King arrived, he made him a few civil speeches at first, but soon fell back into his old uncourteous tone, and said the most unpleasant and insulting things with the greatest rudeness. A little after three the Emperor Alexander came to see the Queen, with Tolstoy and the gentlemen of his suite, and dined with her ; the Grand Duke Constantine came also,

and at seven o'clock all went away again. I took a sorrowful leave of the Emperor, for I am not likely ever to see him again.'

'July 10.

'We did not know whether we were to go away or not; at last at eleven o'clock the King made up his mind to go.

'The Duke and Duchess of Holstein came to see the Queen ; we dined early, and at one o'clock set out. The Queen went with the King, and I with Countess Tauenzien, and at nine we were back in Memel.'

'July 11.

'I cannot sleep any more now; I feel too deeply what has happened to us, and now these dreadful losses again! Lord Gower and the Prince of Orange came to see me early, then Colonel Engelbrecht and two other Swedes, who are very pleasant. The King of Sweden is again commencing hostilities, and we—we must keep peace! The Emperor Alexander alone has brought us to this! Rüchel sends in his resignation; Hardenberg is dismissed. Ah! now indeed everything is lost. The Swedish gentlemen and two Russian generals, Dresen and Abrakoff, came to dinner; of ours, Arnim and Rüchel, and a Colonel Hamilton

‘In the evening we were alone. I feel bewildered and cannot collect myself, our fate is too dreadful. The banker Lewy from Berlin is here and came to see me, and I gave him some letters to take back.’

‘July 12.

‘To church with the Queen. Before dinner Gower and several officers came to see me; at dinner we had Prince and Princess William, Prince Henry, a number of generals, the Princes of Hohenzollern, Prince Pless, General Abrakoff, who goes away to-day, the Prince of Orange and Goltz. I cannot express the grief and sorrow that consume me; I do not yet know how to bear it, and can only feel new wonder daily at the King’s composure. The Queen, on the contrary, is terribly sad and depressed. They say that Napoleon leaves Königsberg to-morrow. Ah! if God would take him out of the world, there would be help for us.’

‘July 13.

‘Princess Charlotte’s birthday. We spent the whole morning with her. I had a great deal of writing to do; a courier was despatched to Glatz, and I sent by him thirty louis-d’or to my poor daughter. We dined in Argelander’s garden. In

the evening we drove to Tauerlaken, where the King gave a tea for Princess Charlotte and the children.'

'July 14.

'The Queen takes a walk with the King every morning and evening, and is as much as possible with him to comfort him, so that I am now much alone. At dinner we had the Swedes, Russians, Englishmen, and the Princes. Supper is now always out of doors. The best of the Russian generals want to resign, as they think the way things have been done is not honourable. Napoleon has declared that his armies are to remain in the country till the 1st November. I still hope that the Russians will recommence the war.'

'July 15.

'The Hetman Platow came alone to pay his respects to the Queen. He came to dinner, and paid me a visit with his interpreter. After him came the brother of Prince Bagration, Stroganoff, and Count Potemkin, and they all dined with us. Old Platow has a most venerable appearance, and he too is very unhappy about this horrible peace, like all honest men among the Russians; their Emperor has brought shame on himself by it, but the Grand Duke is most blamed in the matter.'

‘Napoleon is said to have been nearly drowned between Königsberg and some place to which he wanted to sail secretly. A miserable sailor saved him—Divine Providence still retains him in life. The Hereditary Prince of Schwerin arrived here to-day, on his way to St. Petersburg to thank the Emperor Alexander for the recovery of his lands ; he dined and spent the evening with us. Napoleon is already at Dresden ; Knobelsdorf is to be sent to him to beg that the requisitions may at least be proceeded with more gently. General Savary passed through here to-day with a great suite, sent as ambassador to St. Petersburg by Napoleon. He is quite right to be as civil as possible to Russia, as the Emperor has been more than ever complaisant to him, and that entirely at our expense.’

‘July 17.

‘Lord Hutchinson, his brother, and a few other Englishmen came to dinner ; they are going to St. Petersburg.

‘Kaminskoi marched through with one of his regiments, and came to see me ; he is a very agreeable man. Stroganoff and all the other Russians are quite in despair and beside themselves about the peace, and they are now all going away. The

Queen went to see the battalion of Guards stationed here at their drill, and in the evening we all went to walk under the trees.'

'July 18.

'At dinner we had Wilson, Gustus, General York, who has been made governor of Memel, Tresckow and Zawadsky, Rüchel, the Russians and Swedes; this evening they all went away.'

'July 19.

'Travelling Russians and Englishmen still to dinner, all on their way to St. Petersburg. This evening as usual had supper in the open air at Tauerlaken, and walked under the trees for a long time.'

'July 20.

'Wilson also took leave. Many officers of the Russian regiments came to dinner, who are marching through or spending the night here and going on to-morrow; in the evening we went on the water for a little while.'

'July 21.

'Wonderful weather; it is almost hotter here in the summer than at Berlin, and the neighbourhood is very pretty. The Russian Paulowsky and Popolsky regiments came through the town, and

marched past the King's house on their way. We drove to Althof with the Princes and the Russian generals ; the garden is wonderfully pretty ; the King gave a great collation there for the officers. All this is so terribly sad, since the aim of this alliance has not been gained, but, on the contrary, shame and contempt. In the evening we had supper out of doors.'

'July 22.

'More Russians to dinner ; the weather is beautiful ; we dined in the open air in the sugar-baker's garden.'

'July 23.

'Their Majesties spent the whole morning with me ; a good many people came and went, amongst them Jackson, who brought me letters from Berlin. Dined in the garden. The Queen has been so good as to have an awning put up before my door, so that I can sit in the open air, which is a great blessing to me. She gave me also to-day a beautiful gold snuff-box. Ah ! the poor Queen, how much more unhappy she is than any one ! We drank tea with the Dohnas this evening.'

'July 24.

'Their Majesties always spend the morning

with me, and other people come in and out also. Dinner as usual was in the garden; the Radziwills came to dinner, and more Russian officers who were passing through. The Queen went out riding; we had supper out of doors. No news arrived from anywhere.'

'July 25.

'My dear beloved Queen is drinking Pyrmont water. God grant that it may strengthen her. Their Majesties came to me as usual for a couple of hours before dinner, and the officers residing here or passing through, and the Englishmen, come also every morning. I sprained my foot and could not go out. The French are leaving Königsberg at last.'

'July 26.

'I cannot walk at all, and only sit outside my door. Their Majesties came to me before and after dinner, then drove to Tauerlaken, and came back by water. Hitroff, Senff, and Palmer came to take leave. A proclamation of the Emperor Alexander's, which has been published in the St. Petersburg "Gazette," is unfortunately little to his honour. In it he says that the peace has given him the advantage of gaining a portion of

Prussia. The King of Sweden is leaving Pomerania to return to Stockholm.'

'July 27.

'I cannot walk yet, but every one is kind and good-natured and comes often to see me. The Dohnas are going to Königsberg. Hufeland dined with me. Their Majesties came in the evening.'

'July 28.

'Every one came to sit with me out of doors—their Majesties, the Radziwills, and Prince and Princess William.'

'July 29.

'Their Majesties came to me three times today. In the evening the King remained alone with me for a long time after the Queen was gone. Ah! how sad and depressed he is! When he does for once express himself openly, it goes to one's heart, and I could not listen to him without tears. Kalkreuth has been made governor of Königsberg; I do not like him much.'

'July 30.

'Their Majesties drove to Tauerlaken, but came to see me both before and afterwards. They really overwhelm me with kindness and graciousness.'

‘July 31.

‘Great heat. No news! ’

‘August 1.

‘I was able to go to the Queen again. The deputation from Königsberg had an audience. These poor people have suffered terribly!

‘Their Majesties drank tea with the Crown Prince, that is to say, in honour of him, in the house where the Princes are lodged.’

‘August 3.

‘Birthday of our dearly-beloved King. The Queen had a *déjeuner* in the garden. I gave him a *couvre-pied* that I had worked, some cockades and rosettes for his horse, some English bottles and glasses, a pretty Chinese tea-tray, and a Chinese cake-basket for tea. We had a dinner of seventy people, who all sat at a long table in the garden of the house where I live. All the Chargés d’Affaires and many Russians were invited, and in the evening the Queen gave tea and music at Tauerlaken; cannon were fired, and everything was very well done. Finally there was a supper at the Crown Prince’s, and our houses were illuminated as well as possible, and the whole day went off very well.’

‘August 4.

‘The King is now taking sea-baths. Many people are going back to Berlin. The Goltzens gave an open-air tea party to their Majesties, and then a supper at their house.’

‘August 5.

‘At dinner we had Dohna, who has been made president, and a number of officers. The Queen spent the morning with me, came back immediately after dinner, and again after supper. I hear from St. Petersburg that the Emperor is very much out of spirits and shows himself very little, and indeed it is very natural. People talk of the successes of the Swedes over the French, but, ah ! they come too late. Marshal Berthier inhabits the Queen’s apartments at Berlin ; it is really too bad !’

‘August 6.

‘No, it is not true ; he is living in my apartments. Officers again to dinner, in the evening tea with the Radziwills.’

‘August 9.

‘Frightful heat. Their Majesties came to me as usual this morning, also Princess William and Princess Radziwill. Then a military dinner again ; in the evening at Tauerlaken. I was displeased with the younger ladies-in-waiting.

‘Two-and-twenty English ships have passed through the Sound; it is said that they want to pick a quarrel with the Russians. The whole world will be at war at last.’

‘August 8.

‘I have never felt such heat. As usual every one came to me in the morning, then a military dinner, and in the evening drove out.’

‘August 9.

‘We cannot go to church at all now, for both churches, the Lutheran as well as the Reformed, are entirely given up to the sick and wounded.’

‘August 10.

‘A great many officers to dinner again; we always dine now in the King’s garden. In the evening their Majesties went out riding. It is said now that there are forty English ships under weigh. We hear of nothing but the insolence of the French. In the evening supper with the Princes in the garden, where they roasted potatoes in the ashes for themselves.’

‘August 11.

‘In honour of the birthday of Prince George of Strelitz, the Radziwills gave a dinner and tea

at Tauerlaken. The Hereditary Prince of Schwerin arrived from St. Petersburg, and came straight to me, to give me an account of things there.'

'August 13.

'There are still some Russians here on account of the money payments. In the evening the Prince of Schwerin resumed his journey. He and some officers came to dinner; in the evening all went to Tauerlaken.'

'August 14.

'I went to the fair with the Queen and the Princes; the Queen bought for me some material for a dress, and silk ribbons to match it. I gave some ribbons to the ladies-in-waiting. The day was spent as usual, and the Queen came to me, as she always does, for an hour after supper to talk things over undisturbed. Ah! merciful God! how she is to be pitied.'

'August 16.

'Napoleon arrived in Paris on the 28th, and was received with great acclamations. The marriage of Prince Jerome took place on the 15th. It is incredible what these people can do and attain.'

‘August 17.

‘The Berlin newspapers always arrive at tea-time, and contain matter enough to make one ill with anger. The King’s birthday was kept at Breslau; at Berlin they did not dare to do it; it is really worse than cowardly.’

‘August 18.

‘The whole morning as usual was passed with me, and to-day the evening as well. We sit outside the door, and the King walks up and down. Voss assumes the Ministry again, which vexes me greatly; he is not the man we need; he has too little experience, and has seen too little of the world. I said so to the King; he was angry, and abused Hardenberg; but, oh! if things go on like this, we shall be utterly ruined!’

‘August 23.

‘We have just received the news of the bombardment of Copenhagen. The Danes wished to remain neutral, and the English would not allow it; it is believed now that the French will march upon Holstein.’

‘August 24.

‘A deputation from the citizens of Berlin has come, and I saw them at dinner. It is terrible to

hear of the sufferings in those parts, and now they must pay the most exorbitant requisitions, and if they cannot the French will continue still in the country ; it is really diabolical harshness and cruelty. The Queen has made great friends with Princess Radziwill, and they are a great deal together. Count Henckel and Brinkmann drank tea with me ; the latter told me that Voss was going to retire, and Stein would be Minister in his place ; this would be great good fortune.'

'August 27.

'The deputies from Berlin had an interview with the Queen ; she kept them for a long time, and her language to them was wonderfully beautiful and touching. Later in the day a handful of cavalry went by ; the King told me they were all that remained of four cavalry regiments ; but as the provinces from which they came no longer belonged to him, he could not invite them to come to him, or inspect them ; he had no longer any right to do so. I went away to cry by myself.'

'August 28.

'Poor Princess William has had a miscarriage and is very ill.'

‘September 3.

‘A deputation came to-day from Silesia—Counts Maltzahn, Vengersky, Bethusy, Thun, Dyherrn, and Tschirsky. They came to dinner, and their Majesties were very kind and cordial to them.’

‘September 5.

‘All the harbours are closed. We have hardly any news.’

‘September 6.

‘The poor King is quite beside himself on account of the conduct of General Soult, who positively will not go, in spite of his solemn promises, and moreover writes the most insolent letters. May God give the poor King strength to bear so much trouble ! ’

‘September 8.

‘The poor dear King was really ill to-day. They gave him an emetic, to counteract if possible the effect of this emotion and excitement.’

‘September 10.

‘They write to me from Berlin that Generals Vitry and St. Hilaire have conducted themselves very ill. The former lives in the Voss’s house, and does every sort of mischief there. Every

evening he drives to the palace at Charlottenburg, and behaves there as if it belonged to him. It is feared that both of them, with all their troops, will remain there for the whole winter. I was already unwell, but this news gave me the last blow.'

'September 11.

'The Queen is very unhappy that in all places which, in accordance with the convention, the French should have left, they remain on, and reduce the inhabitants to utter beggary. To-day from the lighthouse we saw an unfortunate vessel wrecked; a boat saved seventeen men, and then it went down, and we saw them all perish before our eyes. It was horrible!

'In the evening alone with the household. When we are alone, Schiller's "Thirty Years War" is read out. Their Majesties are both very poorly. All this trouble must exhaust their strength. How are they to bear such a load of sorrow? The poor Queen cries too much!'

'September 21.

'The English bombarded Copenhagen in earnest on the 5th; took the town and fleet on the 7th, and burned the latter.'

‘September 22.

‘In Königsberg, an actor appeared on the stage in a French uniform, but the officers who were present raised such an outcry that they had to let down the curtain. Soult sent information of the occurrence to Napoleon in Paris; he is furious, and demands the punishment of the officers concerned in it. What slavery! May God free us from this tyrant at last.’

‘September 23.

‘No, it is not Soult, but Daru who heard the story in Berlin, and wrote to Napoleon. The King is quite beside himself about it. I know that in his position I should do nothing to the officers, whatever it might cost me.’

‘September 24.

‘The King will first have the story inquired into in Königsberg.’

‘October 2.

‘The Minister Von Stein has arrived. Thank God that he is here. The King received him very well; God grant that it may remain so. He has a great question before him, and great difficulties to overcome. He received the order of the Eagle to-day.’

‘October 3.

‘The three young Princes held to-day, for the first time, the special review. It was extremely interesting to see. I went with the ladies-in-waiting and cried for emotion. The Queen also came later, with Princess Radziwill. The poor Queen, she was terribly moved and overcome.’

‘October 10.

‘Poor D’Orville, Princess William’s lady-in-waiting, died to-day. It is very sad for the Princess.’

‘October 11.

‘Bad news from Berlin. The French have sold the entire stock of the Royal Porcelain Manufactory. General Soult is more shameless and insolent than ever. General Victor was quite determined to live in the palace. The steward removed and packed up everything he could, in hopes that the empty and deserted rooms would deter him. It is thought that perhaps he may remove to the Radziwills’ palace.’

‘November 3.

‘Still worse news, such as we now get daily, These abominable French people intend to destroy the forts, and sell everything in them belonging to

the State. They will leave us nothing. Both their Majesties are quite inconsolable, and oh! I am not less so !

‘I found the Queen to-day so shaken and despondent over the last news, that I resolved to write for her to Napoleon. I asked Stein’s advice, and he told me to try it. I showed him my letter, and he was pleased with it. The French are now determined to have all the fortresses, and will not leave Berlin. In that case, the unhappy Queen must pass the whole winter here, or remain in Königsberg, and that would be hard for her.’

‘November 11.

‘I received the catalogue of all that the French have either despatched officially from Berlin to Paris, or simply stolen, as well from the Royal palaces as from Potsdam ; mostly statues, pictures, china, vases, valuables, and works of art of every description. The list is incredible.’

‘November 25.

‘A courier came from Paris to-day, and brought Napoleon’s answer. He promises that the troops shall leave these provinces, and the Queen can then be confined in Königsberg ; there is no need for her to go to Berlin on that account. He is an un-

scrupulous villain. And this scourge, this vile man, is permitted to crush and torment us.'

'December 16.

'Always the same desperate and painful position. They write to me that Napoleon is going to be divorced, that Josephine is to be Empress of Italy, and that he wishes to marry the Grand Duchess Catherine. I do not believe it.'

'January 1, 1808.

'Providence has willed that I should still live another year, and outlast and overcome all the misfortunes which have fallen upon me, even this last and hardest one which has come to us, and under which none suffer so much as my poor unhappy King and Queen. They have lost the half of their kingdom, and what hope remains of ever seeing their beleaguered provinces, and, above all, the capital, free from this enemy? From East Prussia at any rate these wretched French are gone; they have only left one little corps in Marienburg. We go to Königsberg as soon as it is possible. May God support my poor Queen, and help her when her time comes.'

RETROSPECT OF MY LIFE.

'Memel, January, 1808.

'She who here sets down a few words of retrospect and recollection of her past life, is an old, old woman, who will soon have attained her eightieth year. Her heart is full of the deepest thankfulness to those who, during the time of her pilgrimage upon earth, have aroused in her those feelings of love and tenderness which fill her heart to-day, and will never be extinguished in it.

'It has pleased God to give her a long life. She thanks Him in all humility, and blesses and prizes the narrow road along which His holy will has led her. Sometimes the way has been hard and dark, but it was salutary and healing to the soul. One happiness, however, was hers, the possession of beloved children, whose love has doubled all her joys and lightened all her sorrows.

'From her earliest youth a member of the Court to which she still belongs, a brilliant and stately one in those days, she has remained through her long life faithful and true to that Royal house.

'She has seen the rule and great achievements of a King who conquered in a dangerous war,

although the might and magnitude of the foe who had sworn to his destruction was such that it seemed as if his kingdom must inevitably succumb.

' But his greatness consisted not only in that he defended himself, and stood up unaided and undismayed against an universal enemy, but he also reconquered what he had lost, and became mightier than he had been before. He was inflexibly firm and steadfast, and at times even admirable and sublime. And in addition he built palaces, and piled up treasure. The good Prince who followed him seemed to be made for the happiness of his people, of a character full of mildness and warm-hearted benevolence. He had energy also, and would have shown it, had not ill-luck willed that a base and evil influence should hang upon and take possession of him, until he lost all control over his own passions. This was also the reason of his early death. He was taken before his time, and oh ! not half so much lamented as he deserved. And yet he was so kind, so true a friend in need, and if one may permit oneself the expression, such an honourable, upright man !

' Then came his son, who understood well how to reign, and with the noble and earnest feeling

natural to him, had he listened to his own inspirations, would have stood high in history. But all those who brought him up, who surrounded and who served him, were so weak that they hindered, disabled, and disheartened him. They induced him to remain passive when he should have acted, and then at the wrong moment to commence a war, alone at first, and later but ill supported by an ally, whose soldiers were brave, but all whose generals were useless or corruptible. And this ally he had to thank for a dishonourable peace, which was therefore more than unfortunate.

‘Of all the radiance of our former greatness, what has remained but a painful remembrance? Shall we ever free ourselves from this misery? Where is will or energy, or confidence in our own strength? All, all fails, and never comes to conclusive and intrepid action. Is there anything more miserable for a heart which grieves over the wreck of this kingdom than the sight of this hopeless, wretched despondency? And my Queen, whose great qualities are honoured with actual worship by the whole people—surrounded by children, who already give promise of distinction, if we only succeed in raising ourselves again. Oh! my God, the only refuge to whom I

turn in my tribulation, save, I beseech thee, this Royal house from the terrible troubles that overwhelm them like a stormy sea. Put fresh courage, new hopes and resolution into the heart of him on whom all depends, and let me, an old woman, before I die, hear the answer to my petitions for those to whom I have given my whole life.'

'January 14.

'Their Majesties drove to Tauerlaken to-day, and gave the tradespeople, especially Argelander, a dinner there. The Princesses and Simpson were also there. I started directly after dinner, and crossed the water safely, arriving about seven o'clock in Schwarzort, where I slept, and where the company of the Guards also rested.'

'January 15.

'I started early and arrived safely, late in the evening, at the Rossitten, where I found a lodging at the post. Their Majesties arrived later and lodged at the Minister's. The King also came in to me for an hour.'

'January 16.

'On, at six o'clock in the morning. I dined

at Kreutz, with farmer Leo. One sees on all sides the ruins of villages, burnt by the French! Good God! how sad it all is. At one o'clock I was in Königsberg; their Majesties did not arrive till four, and we dined at six. In the evening we again had some cold meat, and some punch to celebrate our return. The Queen, thank God, is well, and not too tired.'

'January 17.

'A deputation came from the town to greet their Majesties, and brought a beautiful poem. Then there was a great civil and military dinner. The Royal children only arrived in the evening. The whole town was beautifully illuminated, and the Queen received as a present from the towns-people a sofa covered with green velvet.'

'January 18.

'In the evening the students came, to bring the King their congratulations and a poem. It was the anniversary of the coronation, and it closed with a very beautiful serenade.'

'January 19.

'The officers of Ziethen's regiment came to dinner. The Queen has caught a bad cold, but nevertheless went through with it all.'

‘January 20.

‘Princess William arrived. The officers who had been dismissed were invited to dinner, then the Guards arrived; and Wittgenstein also came, to my great joy.’

‘January 22.

‘The Queen had some of the principal ladies to chocolate with her—the young Countess Dönhoff, Dohna, Kalkreuth, and Schorlemmer. The officers of the Artillery came to dinner.’

‘January 23.

‘Old Countess Dönhoff, Fräulein von Lehndorff, Larisch, Dalwigk, Schroetter, Calnein, and Goltz were with the Queen at one o’clock. She has a terrible cold, but will not spare herself. At dinner, Stein, Wittgenstein, Götz, little Brandenburg, who is now in the Guards, and many officers.’

‘January 24.

‘A deputation of nobles with the Queen early. At dinner, Dankelmann, Winterfeld, Schroetter, Korff, and Köhler. The King talks a great deal to all these deputations, and now speaks well and imposingly.’

‘January 25.

‘I have a great, big, cold room, which always

smokes, and have to receive so many visits that I am often tired and poorly. The Queen continues to go out, but is not well. At dinner, Domhart, the Marshal, and many officers.'

'January 26.

'Several ladies again with the Queen to chocolate. Their Majesties came for a little while to me. K—— gave me a letter from Brockhausen, who writes to him that he has not given my letter to Napoleon, as I do not stand in his good graces. I was very angry with Brockhausen, it is too bad. The Royalties went in the evening to Princess Henry's.'

'January 27.

'I had such a heap of people with me, the whole morning, that I could hardly bear it. At dinner we had Count von Stutterheim, York, Count Gröben, and Dohna-Lauk, which latter is a very agreeable man. Stein was also there. I told him of Brockhausen's conduct about the letter, which he called extremely insolent. I also told the King and Queen, and both were much displeased with his behaviour. In the evening there was a club ball in the town, at which the King was present.'

'January 30.

'Still a fearful number of visits, and ladies again with the Queen. In the evening a students' ball, to which the King went.'

'January 31.

'Sunday.—Their Majesties went to church, where some candidates were brought in and ordained. They then took a walk. At dinner, several officers, Count Dohna, Schlieffen, Auerswald, Prince Henry, and Prince William.'

'February 1.

'The Queen, thank God, is better again ; but it cannot last much longer. Goltz, Stein, Dohna, and many officers to dinner. After dinner, their Majesties came to me for a little while. In the evening I remained alone in my room ; at ten o'clock I was called hurriedly to the Queen, and at eleven a little princess was born. Thank God, she did not suffer much, and the good King was beside himself with joy. I remained till midnight, and was then able to go to my room with my mind at ease. Thank God that she is well.'

'February 2.

'I could not sleep. I wrote eighteen letters early, and was with the Queen much during the day. She and the child, thank God, are well.'

‘February 4.

‘Frau von Berg arrived in the night, and early to-day was called to the Queen, who was very glad to see her. The King was not well.

‘At dinner, Krusemark, Holstein, Stackelberg, Wittgenstein, Kalkreuth, and Schladen.’

‘February 5.

‘The King is seriously unwell. Frau von Berg was with the Queen, before and after dinner, and supped with me.’

‘February 6.

‘The King is better again. The dear Queen is, thank God, getting on splendidly. Frau von Berg is a great deal with her, and I am overwhelmed with the fearful number of people whom I have to receive the whole morning, and after dinner again till the evening. But I am with the Queen as much as possible.’

‘February 10.

‘The beloved Queen well. The Princes and the Royal children are soon to see her. Frau von Berg and I are much with her. The child is healthy and pretty, and the nurse good. May God be praised. He has stood by us! May He also save us from this miscreant who persecutes, and wishes to annihilate us.

‘I went out walking for a little while to-day with Frau von Berg. In the evening they are now always with me.’

‘February 23.

‘The dear little Princess Alexandrina’s birthday. We laid aside the mourning, which we had worn a fortnight for the Abbess of Herford. At dinner Dohna, Schroetter, and many officers. I gave the Princess a variety of China toys. She dined with us, and the Queen also dined again with the Court to-day, for the first time. I walked a little with Frau von Berg. In the evening tea was at the little Princess’s, and music till nine o’clock.’

‘February 26.

‘The Queen now always dines alone with the King, only occasionally some of the Royal children with them. She is well, and oh! so good and so quietly sad, but never animated. Oh! if our dear King were not so desponding and wavering; I fear he will never again believe in the possibility of things taking a happier turn.’

‘February 27.

‘The King will not allow trains to be worn at the christening of the little Princess, and she cannot go to the church on account of the severe

cold. The Queen came to my room, and brought me a lovely little ornament, with many tears! I also was almost choked with pain and grief. I went to the King to thank him, and cried bitterly. Oh! must not one's heart break over so much misery? I am too sorry for them both—and how good they are!'

'February 28.

'Great dinner. The generals, ministers and deputations from the town and state, who stood as sponsors, as well as Dohna-Schlobitten, and Korff for the nobles. Privy Councillor Buchholtz, Frei, Greim, and Krause all dined at the first table. After dinner, the child was given over to me in the Queen's room, and I took her to Princess William, who held her. Prince Henry and Radziwill were also sponsors. The little Princess was named Louisa Augusta Wilhelmina Amelia. We were in short dresses and tunics—to my regret. I and the ladies-in-waiting were the *only* ones of the household at the first table. Princess William was seized with a fainting fit, but it soon passed off. Frau von Berg dined alone with the Queen. In the evening Stein started with Stägemann for Berlin.'

‘March 22.

‘Dear little Prince William’s birthday. A *soirée* was given in the evening, in his honour. The Queen walks every day with the King, and I with Frau von Berg. Wittgenstein, I am sorry to say, returned to Berlin to-day. He has been so much with me lately I shall really miss him. All news is sad, and gets continually worse. Everything now hangs on the absolute will of Napoleon. It is too hard ! What exasperates him is that the Grand Duchess Catherine will not marry him. She is a Princess whom one must respect, and who can show firmness. Oh ! if her brother were only equally so. If Providence would only bring to an end the criminal life of this Corsican all would be well, and we should regain all we have lost. He is too bad to know any other motives than avarice and barbarity, and has one only desire, to overthrow and subjugate everything.

‘Frau von Berg, Wittgenstein, and I were alone with the Queen all the afternoon, and I remained with her till late in the evening.’

‘April 1.

‘After to-day the officers will not dine with us. I went to them again to-day to take leave, for which I was very sorry. Unfortunately it

becomes daily more necessary to economise in the Royal household. I also give up a part of my allowance, there is nothing else to be done ! I gave the King a small liqueur-case, as a *poisson d'avril*. The young ladies-in-waiting and the two little Princesses dressed themselves up. Then Prince Augustus arrived. The poor King is very hypochondriacal and gloomy, and it is very natural.'

'April 3.

'All the poor officers who pass through here are now put upon half-pay, and there are many who do not receive even the most trifling pay. It is well known that many of these poor officers saw wood to earn their bread, others work for the peasants, in the house and in the field, to gain a living. Is it not a cruelly hard fate ?'

'June 1.

'Prince Augustus drove to-day to visit the battle-fields of Eylau and Friedland. Ah ! this battle of Eylau would have been our salvation had it not been for that horrible, false Benningsen.'

'June 7.

'Their Majesties took possession of a small summer-house outside the town.'

‘July 25.

‘At dinner we had Major von G——, who was formerly in the King’s regiment, and is now on half-pay, like most others; and oh! he looked the very impersonation of hunger—it went to my heart.’

‘July 29.

‘Marshal Victor has sent word to Iffland that the piece prepared for the King’s birthday may be given, and that they may also illuminate. “Napoleon knows how to honour the King.” A pretty speech !’

‘September 18.

‘The Emperor Alexander is coming at last. A courier arrived here to-day from Paris, and brought news that Napoleon has determined that our fortresses shall not be given back, in spite of promises and agreements. No, it is too much! Is it to be borne?’

‘September 14.

‘General Lestocq and Diericke, who is made Lieutenant-General, are to be in waiting on the Emperor. Also Colonels Nassenbach, Stutterheim, Scharnhorst, and Gneisenau, and Generals York and Borstell on the Grand Duke. Lestocq goes to meet him at the frontier, and they give him a

public dinner in Mund. Count Dohna receives and entertains him, in the name of the Government, at Rossitten, where the King goes to meet him. All the nobility will be assembled in the palace to receive him. The Princes will ride to meet him, and escort both their Majesties. The Royal children and the Generals will receive them on the doorsteps.'

'September 18.

'The Grand Duke came yesterday and went on again to-day; the Emperor arrived at seven o'clock this evening. The streets were lined with all the troops we have here, the cuirassiers formed his escort; the King himself, Prince Henry, and Prince Augustus rode out to meet him, and he arrived also on horseback. Kind and amiable as ever, just his old self; but oh! so weak and undecided, and absolutely without energy. The Ministers and Stachelberg came to supper; the Emperor was extremely gracious and agreeable to every one.'

'September 19.

'The Emperor rode with the King this morning to view the neighbourhood and the former field of battle; then he paid visits to all the Princes. We dined at three; the principal ladies,

the Ministers, the Generals, their Excellencies, and Jacobi at the first table, and the rest at the second table. The Emperor paid me a visit and remained a long time with me; I represented to him all our misfortunes, and he said repeatedly, “Believe me, I will do all I can.” In the evening their Majesties rode to the King’s garden-house; the whole Court, and the gentlemen of the Emperor’s suite, drank tea and had supper with me.’

‘September 20.

‘A great dinner at two tables; but no ladies were present to-day, excepting Countess Stachelberg. The Emperor came to see the ladies-in-waiting for a moment before dinner; at six o’clock he went away. Their Majesties accompanied him to Spandinen. Everything is hoped now from him. God grant that this hope may not be in vain!’

‘September 21.

‘The Emperor sent on to the King a courier, who had been sent to him from Paris, and whom he met on the way, and he brought the news that Prince William had yielded everything, and submitted to all Napoleon’s conditions. Furthermore, Stein had written a letter to Wittgenstein, ex-

pressed in very strong, but certainly indiscreet terms, and had given it to Koppe ; the French have seized this letter upon Koppe, and have sent him to the fortress of Spandau, and Stein's letter is now amongst the French documents which are made the ground for the new negotiations, with the bitterest marginal notes from Napoleon appended to it ; this fills up the measure of our misfortunes. Goltz has gone after the Emperor Alexander. The Queen is inconsolable, the poor King furious at this new mishap ; he has himself spoken to Stein about it, but it is doubtful whether he will still retain him after what has happened. Everything is against us, oh ! God.'

'September 22.

'I have seen Stein's letter ; he was certainly very imprudent to write so, but Wittgenstein himself is not compromised by the letter.'

'September 28.

'The Queen has received a letter from Napoleon ; it is extremely politely worded, and that is all.'

'October 3.

'The meeting of the two Emperors took place on the 27th, near Erfurt. Both were on foot ; all

passed off with apparent friendship and great civility; we hope for the best.'

'October 8.

'The Queen is very anxious. It is quite possible that this little drama at Erfurt might eventually have an evil influence upon our weak friend.'

'October 9.

'I fear more and more that Napoleon's flattering manner and the gay life and doings will not work favourably on the mind of the poor Emperor Alexander, and will be very detrimental to our cause.'

'October 13.

'We get no more news at all from Erfurt. I really believe that Napoleon has forbidden any one to write to us—would it not be too horrible?'

'October 14.

'Nagler arrived, and brought me the news that Princess Henry died on the 8th at Berlin; it is a great grief to me.'

'October 20.

'The Grand Duke, who has preceded the Emperor, arrived to-day. He talks a great deal, does not like the French, but raves about the French theatres. I do not *trust* him.'

‘It is believed that the Emperor comes to-morrow; the King and Queen with the Grand Duke remained alone together. At four o’clock came a courier to announce the Emperor’s arrival. Every one was in a fever of excitement to dress as quickly as possible, and make the necessary arrangements for his reception, and several ladies were really ready in time. In honour of the Emperor, mourning was laid aside. He came very soon, and was charming, kind, and amiable as ever. He has really performed impossibilities for us, and proved himself most faithful.

‘I received quite late a letter from the Duke of Vicenza, that is to say, Caulaincourt, who arrives also to-morrow.’

‘October 21.

‘The Emperor and the King and Queen spent the whole day together, and were immensely happy to see each other again. There was a great dinner—the Ministers, many ladies, and Caulaincourt. I sat next to him, opposite their Majesties; he is very pleasant and chatty. In the evening the Emperor spent a long time with me, and was in a very good humour.’

‘October 22.

‘Another great dinner. Stackelberg and

Schuwaloff spent the evening with me, their Majesties by themselves.'

'October 23.

'A great review to-day, at which the Emperor and King were present; then a *déjeûner en famille*, afterwards a great military dinner, and in the evening a ball at the Deutschen Haus for the whole town. Every one that could be thought of was there. This sort of entertainment does not meet with my approval. I danced a polonaise, my duty dance with the Emperor, the Royal children, and the other Princes; and then sat down quietly in another room with the Russians to talk comfortably. I like Galitzin very much.

'Prince William returned to-day at last. Great rejoicings, and rightly. The miserable affair is ended at any rate; and though we must suffer greatly from it, still we can breathe again. We came home from the ball at one o'clock, and I took special leave again of the Emperor, who went away at three.'

'November 10.

'Our dear Hardenberg passed through here to-day; he does not live in the town, but resides in the neighbourhood. As he drove by their Majestie's house, and looked up to the windows,

he shed tears, and the King who saw him from the window cried too in his own room for a long time. The Queen wrote him a few lines, and he is to be received to-morrow. In the evening I had much conversation with my good, dear, beloved King—oh ! how excellent he is ! Lestocq is appointed governor of Berlin, and Chazot commandant. I think both have been well chosen.'

'December 9.

'The French left Berlin on the 5th ; they delivered the keys of the city with much solemnity to Prince Ferdinand, and all is now free and peaceful in the town.'

'December 20.

'Left Könisberg early, and after a long and fatiguing journey,'

'January 7, 1809,

'Arrived at St. Petersburg.

'We had passed the night at Strelno, where we found the Emperor's carriages, and in these we continued our journey at eleven o'clock in the morning, the King and Queen in the first, Countess Moltke and I in the second carriage. It is difficult to describe the beauty of this spot, the whole road and the charming country houses

round about, and yet we could of course only guess at it all, on account of the deep snow which covered the country. Outside the gate we stopped for a moment at the house of a wealthy merchant, to continue our road in the Imperial state carriages which were waiting for us here. In the first of these the Queen went with us two ladies. We drove between lines of forty-five thousand infantry soldiers, all tall and very handsome men. Before the palace only were stationed the Guards. The Emperor Alexander, with our King and the Grand Duke, rode step by step by the Queen's carriage, notwithstanding the really frightful cold. The Isaac Square, with the statue of Peter the Great, is superb, and the whole city as far as we could see wonderfully fine. The palaces are far handsomer and more imposing than those in Berlin, but the streets are not; I give ours the preference so far. Everywhere we were met by crowds of people. The whole population seemed to be assembled in the streets and squares.

‘We are lodged in the Winter Palace, where we were received by all the Court. The Empresses were waiting for their Majesties in the first room; the young Empress has something charmingly gentle about her, but unfortunately her com-

plexion and colouring are very bad. The old Empress is very well preserved; the Emperor presented to the Queen the two Grand Duchesses, who are really charming. In the evening we had theatricals at the Hermitage Palace. The dinner was at five o'clock, and the Royalties dined by themselves, and I at the second table.'

'January 8.

'I rose at nine; at ten went to the Queen, and found her unfortunately not well; I am afraid she is expecting again; she has no strength, and is alarmingly languid. We visited the two Empresses; there were crowds of people everywhere, and my feet are quite tired from long standing about. A grand dinner at the Emperor's. The Empress's apartments are furnished with incredible magnificence, and yet in perfect good taste; one does not know what to admire most. The whole Imperial family is amiable beyond expression. The Russian ladies, though very proud in reality, are very obliging in manner, and their cordiality to me is especially charming. After dinner we visited the Grand Duchess; the Grand Duchess Catherine is very attractive; she is to marry the Duke of Oldenburg, who is not handsome, but seems to be an estimable man. The younger

Grand Duchess is handsome and graceful ; she is destined to the Duke of Coburg, but is not to be married for two years. In the evening the tragedy of “Cinna” was given at the French theatre, and Madame Georges acted charmingly. The ballet here is very good ; Dupont dances like a zephyr.’

‘January 9.

‘Countess Lieven came to me early with the Empress-mother’s tailor, who was to measure me for the Russian dress which she is going to give me. At one o’clock I went to the Queen ; all the officers were presented to her, then all those who had received decorations in the campaign, and many ladies by Princess Wolkousky, while the Emperor himself presented all the gentlemen. It was really an immense presentation, and lasted more than two hours. At two o’clock a great dinner at the Queen’s. She already had on her Russian dress of blue velvet. In the evening a State concert, which was pretty good, and afterwards supper with the Queen again.’

‘January 10.

‘I visited Princess Lieven. There are so many people to visit, and so many duties to perform, that one has to trot about like an unfortunate post-

horse. Countess Lieven is a woman of very good principles ; the education of the Grand Duchesses does her all honour, but she is not made for society. To-day the Empress-mother had a family dinner party, to which only I was invited besides themselves. Everything was very good and handsome ; afterwards two comic operettas at the theatre in the Hermitage.'

'January 11.

'The Empress-mother paid me an early visit ; her kindness and goodness to me are not to be described ; at seven o'clock there was a family dinner party again at the Queen's, who had first, however, to receive the *corps diplomatique*. She first saw Caulaincourt alone, then the others, and lastly, Countess Bray also. At eight we went to the ball, which was splendid, but a great crowd. I danced my two polonaises, one with the Emperor, and one with the Grand Duke, and then I made acquaintance with the ladies. The supper was at innumerable little tables ; the whole thing was most magnificent.'

'January 12.

'To-day, for the first time, I went about the town a little with young Countess Lieven, and it made the impression upon me of immense size and

extent. I saw the beautiful Narischkin palace, the marble palace, where the Grand Duke Constantine lives, and from a distance rising above the Neva the Michailowsky palace, where the Emperor Paul was murdered, and also the fortress and church of Alexander-Newski, where the Emperors are buried. The houses all look like palaces, they are so handsome and stately, and so evenly built, and they are as clean as if they were only just finished. The quays, the walks, everything is covered with deep, deep snow, and shines dazzlingly white in the sun. A family dinner again with the Empress-mother. To-day was the Russian New Year's Eve, and also the eve of the young Grand Duchess's wedding. The Emperor with great kindness of manner gave me two Turkish shawls. In the evening the Empress had a small supper party.'

'January 13.

'At eleven o'clock the great ceremony of the wedding of the Grand Duchess Catherine took place in the palace chapel; the bride and bridegroom stood on a platform covered with red velvet, with lighted tapers in their hands; the Grand Almoner in his episcopal robes performed the ceremony, all of course in the Russian language.

He blessed the bride and bridegroom's tapers, and both kissed the crucifix and the priest's hand ; then the Empress-mother exchanged the rings. It was a beautiful and solemn service, and every one in the church remained standing during the whole performance. Then came the mass ; all the Imperial family appear to me really pious and devout. We all wore the Russian full dress, which the Emperor had given us. A great dinner followed, with the household in waiting, and salutes from the guns. In the evening a great ball, which was magnificent and extremely elegant, but I was quite dead with fatigue.'

'January 14.

'At ten o'clock this morning a Court of congratulations at the Grand Duchess Catherine's in trains ; she received us, that is, Countess Moltke and me, before it began, in her bedroom, which was a great distinction and civility from her. A family dinner again at the Empress-mother's, and I as usual was invited to it. The Emperor only appeared at dinner for a moment, because Prince Gagarin's beautiful house was on fire, and he wanted to assist in extinguishing it ; but unfortunately it could not be saved. In the evening there was a great performance at the opera, but I excused myself from it and remained at home.'

‘January 15.

‘I am always summoned to the Empress-mother in the mornings ; if there is time when I come home I have visits to receive. To-day Countess Narischkin and Princess Suwaroff with her daughter came to me, then Countess Benckendorf and Princess Kurakin. A family dinner with the Empress. In the evening the Empress-mother gave a grand ball in the white room. It was really wonderful. I again danced a polonaise with the Emperor, who always continues the same kindness and goodness to me. The young Empress has something charmingly gentle and soft about her manner, and it is both touching and melancholy to see her unfortunate passion for the Emperor, her husband, who is not worthy of it.’

‘January 16.

‘To-day I have had at last a tolerably quiet morning. The Emperor and the King are reviewing troops without end every day, though the cold is so great that it is hardly endurable. Dinner at the Hermitage. All the dinners and entertainments here are incredibly large and crowded ; there were four hundred people at dinner to-day from

the households of the different Courts alone. In the evening the tragedy of "Semiramis" was performed, and Madame Georges acted admirably. I sat between Caulaincourt, who is particularly agreeable and civil to me, and Countess Litta, who is a charming woman.'

'January 17.

'To-day is a fast-day with the Russians. We had a family dinner with the Empress-mother. In the morning I looked through the rooms, where a collection of the most beautiful furs are kept for presents, amongst them a set of black fox for my Queen, and where the presents of diamonds, snuff-boxes, rings, and other ornaments are kept, from which the Emperor himself chooses what he gives to those whom he so honours. Then I went to a Russian shop and to an English warehouse, bought all sorts of things, and was dead tired at last.'

'January 18.

'To-day the great ceremony of blessing the colours on the Neva took place, but the cold was so great that it was impossible to send out the poor soldiers in full dress, and so the great ceremony of the consecration could not be entirely carried out either. Only a short service was held

with a smaller number of troops than usual, but it was very beautiful and imposing. A chapel was erected on the frozen surface of the Neva, in which the Archbishop consecrated the colours ; in the middle of it a hole was cut in the ice, from which he himself drew the water with which he sprinkled the colours.

‘Some of this holy water was then sent to the two Empresses and to all the Russians, who crossed themselves with it. The Emperor nearly died of the cold, but he held out notwithstanding, and the whole populace was there in dense crowds, stretching further than the eye could reach ; the whole thing was really magnificent and imposing, the priests in their state vestments looked very well. At the conclusion mass was read on the Neva, and then this innumerable crowd of priests passed us in long procession in great pomp with lighted tapers, the troops and all the people behind them, and crossed the Neva and back in a wide circle. Afterwards there was a *déjeûner* with the Empress Elizabeth ; she is really charming, but oh ! how terribly unhappy she is. The family dinner was at the Queen’s. Theatre in the evening, the “Spendthrift ;” the piece was very well given, and between the acts

some very pretty Russian national dances were performed by the *corps de ballet*; it lasted till past eleven.'

'January 19.

'Dinner with the Queen again to-day, after we had first visited the Empress's benevolent institutions, which are on a very grand scale; before and afterwards received many visitors and trades-people, who are always coming here to display their goods. In the evening great fireworks at the Tauris palace, which was built by Potemkin, and is immensely large. The fireworks went off with the rapidity of magic. A pigeon flew up suddenly from amongst their Majesties' suite and lighted them as if by enchantment. I never in my life saw anything so wonderful. The fusillade at the end was really magnificent from the innumerable quantity of Roman candles, crackers, and rockets sent up; the whole lasted above an hour. There was a ball afterwards in an enormously large room, two *versts* long, in which 22,000 candles and 6,000 lamps were burning to light the immense space, and it may be imagined what an imposing sight this brilliantly-lighted room offered. Many polonaises were danced, and the entertainment lasted till past three o'clock. The

Empress-mother always plays her quiet rubber at these balls.'

'January 20.

'The Queen was very hoarse to-day, so there was only a family dinner in her apartments, and the play in the evening at the Hermitage. The piece was very pretty, and was followed by a ballet in five acts, "Cupid and Psyche," which alone lasted three hours, so that it was not over till past midnight; it was certainly very pretty, but very long.

'The Empress-mother has really great merit in every respect; but she is very fond of talking, and always wants to be first everywhere and in everything. The young Empress is too unfortunate; one can but pity her with one's whole heart. The only drawback for us here is the cold, which is terrible, and is felt equally everywhere.'

'January 21.

'The Queen had a great deal of fever to-day, and had quite lost her voice, so she remained in bed the whole day. I dined alone with the Empress-mother, and was very agreeably entertained by her; she talked to me immensely, and

is particularly kind and gracious to me. In the evening my Queen had a family party.'

'January 22.

'The poor Queen is a little better, but very weak. A family dinner again in her apartments. In the evening we had some sacred music by the celebrated Russian choir singers, also in her room, which was quite magnificent. Everything is beautiful here, one must allow, only the late hours are very fatiguing, and the cold is too dreadful. Tolstoy and his family were a long time with me to-day, which pleased me much.'

'January 23.

'A family dinner here again, which is not very amusing. In the evening Count Stroganoff gave a very elegant entertainment; his house is excessively prettily furnished; he himself is an old gentleman, but very cheerful and amiable, and his daughter-in-law, born Princess Lapuchin, is an agreeable woman. The Emperor did not please me to-day; he met his mistress there, and danced a great deal with her, which I cannot approve of.'

'January 24.

'As the Queen is still unwell, we dined in her

apartments. A concert in the evening ; I did not think much of the singers, but they were greatly applauded by the Royalties.'

'January 25.

'A great entertainment in honour of the dear Empress Elizabeth on her birthday. In the morning a solemn mass, and a full-dressed drawing room for congratulation, then a family dinner. In the evening a fancy ball at our, the so-called, Winter Palace ; that is to say, the ball was given nominally by the Queen ; 16,000 people were present, all in fancy dress, but unmasked. I think this was the prettiest thing of the kind I ever saw, and in spite of the immense crowd of people there was remarkable order kept.

'The Queen and the two Empresses appeared in the Russian national dress ; every room in the whole palace was used for dancing ; their Majesties' supper was served in the theatre of the Hermitage wing ; everything was extraordinarily splendid and brilliant.'

'January 26.

'We went to K——, the Emperor's little summer palace, which is built on an island in the Neva, and is very pretty. We drove across the river in carriages ; the Emperor, the King, and the Grand

Dukes went in sledges. In the evening there was a concert at the Empress-mother's Educational Institute, where 300 girls of noble family are educated. All were dressed in white, which looked charming; they played the pianoforte, sang odes in honour of their Majesties, danced fancy dances with castanets and wreaths of flowers, and finally the shawl-dance. From the concert-hall we went to the dancing-room, where the Empress Elizabeth was received with branches of roses which were laid at her feet; the Queen was received in the same way in the first room. The Empress-mother did not sit down to the supper, but walked about and did the honours; it lasted till midnight.'

' January 27.

' We get up so late here, that it is impossible to do anything sensible in the morning. I went to-day with the Queen to call upon the Grand Duchess Catherine; in the evening the French ambassador Caulaincourt, now Duke of Vicenza, gave a great entertainment. He inhabits a very fine house, which is entirely furnished at the Emperor's expense. The table was very tasteful and well served; even the glasses had their Majesties' cipher; the ambassador himself extremely courteous

and attentive. In a little room hung a portrait of Napoleon, very well painted ; the whole house was so artistically decorated with flowers and flowering shrubs that it really looked like a garden. The entertainment lasted till two in the morning.'

'January 28.

'The Queen visited all the Empress-mother's benevolent institutions ; then there was a dinner in her apartments, in the evening a performance at the Empress-mother's theatre.'

'January 29.

'A magnificent and very fine review to-day ; after which we drove to Zarskoie-Selo, where we dined, and went to the little theatre again in the evening.

'The Queen gave a portrait of herself to Countess Lieven. The Imperial family really overwhelm us with kindness and graciousness.'

'January 30.

'We drove about the town to-day, to see all the public institutions. Then there was a great dinner at our Queen's, and we received some extremely beautiful presents. I received from

the Emperor a valuable diamond and emerald necklace, from the Empress Elizabeth a clasp, which matched it exactly, and also from the Empress-mother a diamond necklace of very beautiful stones ; all three articles are quite wonderful, and gave me really great pleasure. Countess Moltke received from the Emperor a diamond and amethyst arrow, and from the young Empress a clasp to match. In the evening there was a State opera, and then a ball given by the Russian nobility to the Queen.'

'January 31.

'To-day, alas ! was the day of departure from this beautiful place, and I have enough to do in bidding good-bye to everybody and taking leave of the Empresses and all the household. We started at ten o'clock this morning, in a state carriage with the great escort, just as we came ; the Queen, the Empress Elizabeth, the Princess of Baden, and I drove together in the first carriage, as far as the gate where we had before alighted ; and from there I drove with Princess Amelia and Princes Augustus and William to Strelno, where the Empress-mother was waiting for us with the Grand Duchesses, the Princes of Weimar and Oldenburg, and Countess Lieven ; and as a surprise the Emperor and the King

were also there together. We dined here, then took leave of the Empresses, who returned to St. Petersburg, whilst our Majesties, accompanied by the Emperor and the Grand Duke, continued their journey. I remained in Strelno over night, and for the rest of the day did nothing but cry, so hard was it to me to leave these dear, beloved, excellent people. Never, never shall I forget St. Petersburg: how happy we were there, and how all truly overloaded us with kindness and love! Oh! it was a delightful, charming time, had only my beloved Queen not been almost always suffering. This long journey, and the great fatigue of the continual festivities, were almost too much for her, in her condition, and I am afraid she tries herself beyond her strength. I am rather afraid of the return journey for her, as they say it is thawing everywhere. The Grand Duke supped with me, and then drove back to the town; only Uselwoeff remained with me for the evening, and next morning, the 1st of February, I continued my homeward journey and arrived safely at Königsberg at twelve o'clock.'

‘February 13.

‘The Queen went to the christening at Princess Radziwill’s, who has had a son during our absence.’

‘February 23.

‘Birthday of Princess Alexandrina, who is six years old to-day! The Queen is very unwell, but to-day, thank God, was well enough to be able to spend the evening with the little Princesses.’

‘March 10.

‘I went quite early to the Queen, and gave her a pretty inkstand, and a walnut with golden work implements in it. We had a great dinner at two tables. In the evening the town gave a beautiful ball in the Exchange, and the whole town was illuminated.’

‘March 11.

‘My old birthday. To-day I have completed eighty years of age, which the merciful God has permitted me to live. When I think how our life slips by like a dream, and think also of all the sorrow and misery I have lived through, I cannot sufficiently repeat to myself that all that God sends us is only ordered for our true, that is, for our future and eternal, welfare !

‘During the three years in which our poor beloved Royalties have suffered so incredibly through this detestable Corsican, my heart has been very sorrowful and depressed. If only one

hope, one glimmer of light remained to us, that things might improve—but so long as this wretch lives, for the destruction of mankind, there is no hope for us !

‘ It is said the Austrians want to fight, but they do not do it, and we are so disheartened that we cannot make up our minds to return again to the capital.

‘ I was really confused and overwhelmed to-day with love and kindness. There was music during dinner ; I sat between their Majesties ; they drank my health, and all day long did me honour and kindness. A number of people came to congratulate me, and all heaped presents and attentions upon me.’

‘ March 21.

‘ We live daily in hopes of going back to Berlin, which is right and necessary on all accounts, and yet we always remain here. And so pass the days, weeks, months, and years of misery !’

‘ March 24.

‘ Godet came to me to-day about the tax upon plate, or rather about the necessary sale of all plate and almost all diamonds. The great taxes

must be paid, so what is to be done? One must give up everything.'

'April 4.

'I am reading with interest a history of Russia. I write many letters, and work, and time passes in spite of pain and sorrow.'

'April 6.

'The Emperor of Russia has sent helmets to the Guards. They arrived to-day, and it was a little diversion.'

'April 13.

'A little pamphlet of Kotzebue's was read out at the King's yesterday, in which he well describes the so-called "great man." Their Majesties always drink tea in the evening with me now, and then we sup with the Queen.

'But in spite of our mutual efforts at consolation, our life is unspeakably sad and monotonous. The poor dear King is so desponding, and sees everything in a gloomy and hopeless light.'

'April 17.

'The proclamation of the Emperor of Austria, which he issued when he went to the army, arrived to-day. It is quite wonderful. He speaks to his people like a true father and a true monarch! I was quite beside myself with joy that they are

advancing at last, but the poor King turned away and said, "They will be beaten, and then all will be over." I do not think so, and hold to my hopes. No enemy can be kept within bounds by yielding, and no peace can be kept with this insolent Corsican. That is a delusion; and those who still can must seek to destroy him; there is no other way to escape from him. The Emperor Alexander is not acting well; he is in Finland, and would like also to be King of Sweden.'

'April 19.

'No other news than that the Austrians are advancing. The Archduke has had two more proclamations issued, one to the German people, and the other to the entire nation. Both are very good. May God support him and bless his arms. Russia is behaving ill and faithlessly; they say they are going to march from there into Galicia; that would be more than wanton, and I cannot believe it.'

'April 24.

'Tauenzien has sent Hünerbein here from Berlin. A great deal of excitement and enthusiasm prevails in Berlin. The Berliners all want to march with the Austrians into the field, but

unfortunately the time has not yet arrived when it is possible for us to rouse ourselves. We should now only bring down fresh misfortunes.'

'May 3.

'A rising has been attempted in Cassel under a Colonel Dörnberg. They have been betrayed, and so have unfortunately broken out too soon before their preparations were ready. God help them !

'Baron Moltke arrived here to-day from St. Petersburg, and says it is not true that Russia will declare war against Austria. It is impossible to believe such a thing of the Emperor, and the Russian people also would not suffer it.'

'May 4.

'No news. It is said that Jerome is shut up in Cassel in consequence of the disturbance. Schill has left Berlin with his Hussar regiment, it is feared to commit a great indiscretion somewhere. God grant he may not compromise his King, who knows nothing of all this.'

'May 5.

'That fiend, Clairambault, the French ambassador here, wrote me a note to-day to announce that the French had beaten the Austrians four

days running; that 100 guns and 50,000 prisoners had been taken in Ratisbon ; in short, everything that is most horrible and atrocious, of which I would wager that not a quarter is true. I showed the letter to their Majesties. The Queen was quite overcome with horror, and oh ! the poor King always believes the worst now. I was obliged to answer this abomination of a man, but I made it short and concise. The King scolded us at dinner because we none of us would believe the news. Oh God ! oh God ! we remain crushed and wretched in the depths of misery.'

'May 6.

'Chazot arrived and brought contradictory news. Napoleon had received a contusion, and the Austrians had been victorious on the 25th. St. Marsan told Goltz that it was true the Emperor had been struck by a spent ball.'

'May 7.

'Bad news again. They say now that our poor Austrians have been beaten. Romberg arrived and told me that my grandson Voss had suddenly left Berlin to enlist recruits for Schill. I am very sorry for it. It is all in vain.'

'May 8.

'The Archduke Charles has had to retreat to

the Bohemian frontier. Another of Schill's companies has left Berlin; poor fellows, they go like madmen, and only to their and our misfortune! The King is very angry, and is now forced to reprove his Generals Lestocq and Tauenzien, as they have not been vigilant enough in stopping this unhappy madness. It is said that General Kleist will return to Berlin with a regiment from Frankfort, being previously named commandant. Chazot is under arrest. It is a bad business, and if God does not stand by us, may have very sad consequences for our poor country.'

'May 12.

'News came to-day that Russia has really declared war against Austria. I am in despair! Can one conceive such a thing?'

'May 14.

'It is said that Schill has gained a trifling advantage in the neighbourhood of Magdeburg. The King of Westphalia has set a price upon his head.'

'May 17.

'Clairambault has sent me another bulletin of their imaginary exploits; it is enough to put one in a fever of anger. He says in it that they are already before Vienna.'

‘May 21.

‘Oh God! it is now really said that Napoleon is already before Vienna. It is still hoped that the Archduke Charles and General Hiller may be able to unite their forces, but it is to be feared that Vienna cannot hold out long. If God would only grant that this miserable usurper might meet with his death there! The poor Archduke Louis is to blame for the first defeat; he ventured too far in advance.

‘Schill is at Dömitz, a little fortress on the Elbe, where he can easily save himself by water if he is pressed. It is said he has a great number of adherents, and also a good many soldiers.’

‘May 24.

‘Oh! what terrible news. Vienna capitulated on the 13th. The Archduke Max threw up his command, and General Orelli gave up the town. Of this also I received the first news through that horrible Clairambault, who has illuminated his house in honour of the fall of Vienna.’

‘May 26.

‘A Russian colonel, who arrived direct from St. Petersburg and insisted upon seeing me, came

before I could get up to my bedside, and told me he was on his way to Paris, and the Emperor Alexander sent me word that "he was as much as ever our true friend!" And whilst he sends this message the Russians are already in Galicia! I told the colonel my mind about it. He saw the King and the Queen, then breakfasted with me and travelled on.'

'June 1.

'The happy news of the victory of Aspern! Napoleon has lost many men, and will have much trouble in getting back over the Danube. They say there are 40,000 dead and wounded.'

'June 3.

'Schill is in Stralsund, and has formed a considerable body of men. God knows what will come of it. In the evening I received another bulletin of victory from Clairambault, which struck me at first, but it was dated the 20th, and therefore before the battle, and that was reassuring. Afterwards he sent me a second from Berlin, from St. Marsan to him, evidently full of lies, and as insolent as ever.'

'June 6.

'Their Majesties have for the last two days returned to their little house in the country.'

‘ June 7.

‘ Poor Schill with fourteen officers has been killed in a slight action against the Danes. How sorry I am for him ! His intentions were so good, and he was only carried away by his patriotism ! They say the French have joined the Italian army, and yet Clairambault has sent me no shout of victory ! Then it is very unlikely.’

‘ June 26.

‘ The mistress of the household, Countess Henckel, writes to me from Weimar that the Court is much afraid that the French will come there, and is determined in that case to go to Russia.’

‘ July 24.

‘ An armistice has been concluded at Znaym, under the most terrible conditions ; it is frightful to think of all the poor Austrians have lost. The Queen has behaved like an angel through all this terrible news ; her reliance on the will of God and her piety give her strength to bear all with such meekness that it touches and uplifts one’s heart !

‘ I am convinced that Napoleon will end by taking everything from us, and we really make no attempt to keep a firmer hold upon anything.

If God only willed that this poor Emperor Alexander were not so weak, much might be done ; but now we stand alone. Of what avail is his friendship, when he is so weak and timid ?'

' August 3.

' I got up early, and drove into the country to congratulate my dear King. I gave him a pretty colour-box for his painting. The Queen had had a very pretty chair sent for him from St. Petersburg, covered with red Russia leather. We made an excursion to a charming place in the neighbourhood, which, however, lay three good miles from the town, and in the sharp wind and rain the drive was not pleasant. Arrived there, we dined quite *en famille*, and I drove back rather earlier with the little Princess Louisa, and was home again in the evening at eight o'clock. The others arrived much later, had had a tremendous storm, and the elder Princesses had been upset, but luckily no one was hurt. We were all of course early in the Royal chapel this morning. The King was determined that no festivities should take place, and the money intended for them was divided amongst the poor. Nevertheless the townspeople illuminated the canal and the castle

moat ; but both they and the intended fireworks were unmercifully extinguished by the rain.'

'October 4.

'I have been ill for many weeks, and scarcely recovered from a nervous fever. I have slept quietly to-day for the first time. When I woke, I asked after the Queen, and they told me she was well, when she had been in violent pain since eight o'clock in the morning. The Queen had forbidden them to tell me, so as not to alarm me, and I guessed nothing, till at ten o'clock the poor King stood by my bed quite out of breath, to tell me that the Queen was delivered of a son. The shock nearly killed me, and at first I could hardly grasp it ; but I got up directly, and hurried to my beloved Queen, whom I unfortunately found very weak, but the child is big and strong. Thank God that all is well over !

'In a quarter of an hour I returned again to my room. I was able, however, to write the most necessary letters, including those to the two Empresses.'

'November 7.

'After dinner the Queen brought the little Princess Charlotte to me, who begged me to give

up to her my privilege of carrying the child to the sponsors on the christening-day. Of course, I said yes, although in fact it is not right. It is too early, at eleven years old, with no train, and in a child's frock ; but it must be remembered that we are still in Königsberg, and need not be so particular about etiquette. Herr von Rauch came from Berlin, and cannot sufficiently depict the universal joy and exultation which the certainty of their Majesties' return has called forth.'

' November 8.

' Christening of the little prince. The Ministers, Generals, and Privy Councillors were invited, also the principal of the nobility, and the ceremony was very splendid and stately. The little prince is named Albert. We were in trains. After the christening there was a *levée*. I was there, but soon went away, as I could not stand anything more. Their Majesties gave me a very handsome pearl necklace, a diamond locket, and emerald earrings. Countess Truchsess received a gold chain, and Countess Tauenzien two bracelets.'

' December 22.

' At last, at last, we left Königsberg on the

11th, and after an eleven days' journey I arrived here at Weissensee in the afternoon of the 22nd, and alighted at Schenkendorf's. My grandchildren and great-grandchildren had come from Berlin to greet me, which gave me great pleasure, and Frau von Berg came as far as Freienwald to meet us. Wittgenstein, Raabe, and Goltz all came from Berlin to wait with me for the Queen, who comes to-morrow. What joy !'

' December 23.

' A sort of altar has been erected in the garden, and a quantity of green orange-leaves have been tied to the trees. Their Majesties were taken here to receive the deputations from the town, who brought their good wishes. Their Majesties were very gracious, and it was all inexpressibly touching and pathetic. A *déjeuner* was served by order of the town. The King then mounted his horse, and the Queen got into the carriage presented to her by the town of Berlin, lined with her favourite colour, lilac velvet, and ornamented with silver. The butchers' and tailors' guilds first lined the streets. In spite of the innumerable number of people, the greatest order prevailed. The troops looked wonderfully well. A salute of 101 guns was fired, and everywhere we were

received with cheers and shouts of joy, which were more hearty and rapturous than they could be anywhere else in the world ; and amidst these thousands of hurrahs and cheers their beloved Majesties arrived at last at the palace, where all the Princes and Princesses were assembled to meet them.

‘The dinner was at Prince Ferdinand’s, and in the evening there was a great illumination. Their Majesties drove all over the town to see this beautiful sight, and to enjoy the cheers and enthusiasm of the people.’

‘December 24.

‘Early in the morning we drove to the thanksgiving service in the cathedral in state carriages. Then there was a great dinner in the white room. It seemed to me that the whole town came to see me ; my room was literally taken by storm, by visitors all full of joy and happiness to have our beloved King and Queen back again at last, but amongst all the joyful people certainly none was more glad, or more deeply thankful to God, than I.’

‘January 18, 1810.

‘To-day, for the first time, the festival of the Great Order was celebrated on the anniversary of

the Kingdom. Early in the morning we had to dress in trains, and at eleven o'clock we all drove to the palace and assembled in the room next to the knights' hall. Their Majesties and all the Princes and Princesses arrived at twelve o'clock. Their Majesties stood under the canopy, the household behind them, the Princes on the right : first, the Crown Prince, then Prince William, Prince Frederick, Prince Henry, Uncle Ferdinand, Prince William the elder, Prince Augustus, the Princes of Orange, of Hesse, and of Mecklenburg. Prince Solms did not come in this category. Left of the throne : first, Princess Charlotte next to the Queen, then the King's two sisters, then the aunt, then Princess Louisa, Princess Solms, Princess Frederika, her daughter, and the Princess of Brunswick. All the knights of the order stood opposite the Royalties. General Diericke read a speech, to say that the King instituted this order. It is a white cross, in the centre a red eagle, to be worn with a white and orange ribbon, and has two classes, for officers and for civil servants. The King, his son, and his nephew wore the same. Nagler read out the laws, then those decorated stepped forward to thank their Majesties, and with that the ceremony ended. In the evening there

was a great reception, ball, and supper at the palace; a crowd of people were present. I danced a long string of polonaises, and then played with the old Princess of Orange. It was all very magnificent, and conducted with great order.'

'January 21.

'At eleven o'clock I drove with their Majesties to the cathedral, where all the knights of the orders were assembled, the old and new, each in his separate seat in the nave. The Court on a dais, the ladies in trains, but only one lady-in-waiting from each household. After the sermon the King went to the palace on foot, followed by all the knights. We assembled in the apartments of Frederick I. to warm ourselves, as it was very cold, and then to dinner. A table was laid out in the gallery for 200, and it was quite fearfully cold there. Luckily I sat close to the stove, next to Prince Charles. All the newly-decorated dined here, and also twenty privates, who had received crosses and medals. It was all very beautiful and touching. After dinner we went into the white room, where the decorated soldiers and officers of all the regiments dined, over 600 persons. As their Majesties entered their healths were drunk,

and the cry, “Long live the King and Queen!” sounded through the hall like thunder; in a word, it was a beautiful ceremony, and everybody was quite charmed and touched, I above all, in recollecting the past, and comparing it with the present.’

‘ February 20.

‘ After long suspense, we received at last the official news of Napoleon’s impending marriage with a daughter of the Emperor of Austria. I confess that this is more than lamentable or only sad! What humiliation! The Almighty has His all-wise designs, which we cannot guess or fathom. We must bear with resolution what He inflicts upon us, as well as what He permits.’

‘ February 22.

‘ Napoleon’s marriage is really definitely settled. Marshal Berthier goes to Vienna; the Archduchess is to be married by proxy. It is really too dreadful.’

‘ February 23.

‘ Princess Alexandrina’s birthday. I gave her a pretty doll and a sash, and all the Royal children dined with us, and they enjoyed themselves extremely.’

'March 10.

'Great celebration of the birthday of our dear angelic Queen. I went up to her room early in the morning, and laid on her table a locket set with stones emblematic of the months of the King's and all the Royal children's birthdays. The whole family came to breakfast, then there was a great dinner, and in the evening a Court and ball in the white room, which was very brilliant and splendid. Supper was served at little tables in the picture gallery, and I played with the Princess of Orange, St. Marsan, and Wittgenstein.'

'March 22.

'Young Prince William's birthday. I gave him a draught-board ; all the Royal children and a number of people besides were invited to dinner. In the evening Beyme gave a ball in honour of the Prince.'

'June 25.

'We set out at six o'clock in the morning, the Queen and I in the first carriage ; we had seven relays of the Royal horses, one of post-horses, and two of the Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz's. The Queen was very cheerful all the morning, but as we drew near the frontier an inexplicable sadness suddenly came over her. For a few moments she

was quite overcome and almost terrified, but she quickly recovered herself and it passed off.

‘At midday we arrived at Fürstenberg, where the whole ducal family, excepting the grandmother, was assembled to receive the Queen, and the meeting was very affectionate and very touching. We rested here for a little while, and then Frau von Truchsess and Frau von Berg, whom we had met at Gransee, continued the journey with me, and the Royal and ducal party drove together. We took a long time and made many halts that the horses might not be over-fatigued, and at last arrived at Strelitz, where the ladies and gentlemen of the household were assembled to receive us; every one was presented, and then all retired to their rooms. My granddaughter, Countess Voss, had come from Gross-Giewitz to see me, which pleased me.’

‘June 28.

‘I received a great many visits; we dined early, and later the King arrived with young Prince Frederick and Luck. He seemed very cheerful and well-pleased, and every one was happy. Afterwards I drove with my granddaughter to Gross-Giewitz.’

‘July 1.

‘I was awoke very early at Gross-Giewitz by a courier with a letter from Schilden, who wrote in the King’s name to tell me that the Queen was ill, and that I must return immediately. I went at once with my grandson, as quickly as I could to Hohen-Zieritz, where the Court was, and found the Queen alarmingly altered, and in my opinion most seriously ill. It was inflammation of the lungs, and the fever was very high; she had been bled already, and not only I but the King also was very frightened and anxious. Numbers of people came constantly from Strelitz to get news of the Queen; I went backwards and forwards to the sick-room. I had an exceedingly bad, small room, which was frightfully hot, and found all the arrangements in this seldom-used house very imperfect and insufficient.’

‘July 2.

‘The Queen had a great deal of fever still, but she was as patient and gentle as ever. Frau von Berg drove to Gross-Giewitz, and my grandson Voss also went back there towards evening. The Strelitz Court physician, Hieronimo, hopes for the best, and is not anxious.’

'July 3.

'The King went early this morning through Rheinsberg back to Charlottenburg. The Queen is not worse than yesterday, but neither is she better. I am overwhelmed with kindness and attentions here, but I am depressed and cannot summon up courage; I fear this illness is very serious, and will not pass off quickly. In the afternoon I sent a courier with a bulletin to the King.'

'July 4.

'The Queen is very suffering; did not sleep at all last night, and to-day towards evening got a violent headache; for a moment she was even very much excited and agitated. The ducal family and Princess Solms came to see her, but only for a very short time. People lead a terrible life here; they do nothing, but are always running about and boring themselves. I am constantly in the sick-room or in my own, and live quite by myself; every evening I send a courier to the King with the doctor's report, and he always maintains that the course of the illness is just what it should be. Princess Solms sat up last night.'

'July 5.

'Last night was *very* bad, but to-day, on the contrary, better than yesterday. The King sent

a courier to me, and wrote that he had got ague at Charlottenburg. I wanted to tell the Queen, and the doctor agreed with me, but the others interfered, even Schilden, and made a great outcry that it might do her harm ; I was annoyed and held my tongue.

‘ Ah ! how earnestly I wish that my poor Queen were better ; I cannot bear to see her suffer so.’

‘ July 6.

‘ The Queen had a rather better night ; the fever is very slight to-day, but she is very weak. A courier from Charlottenburg brought a bulletin from Wiedel and letters from Köckritz, which say that the King has fever, but they do not know yet *what* fever.

‘ I sent for the doctor and went with him to the Queen, that he might himself read to her the letters and bulletin about the King, and she was not at all agitated about it. My granddaughter Voss and Frau von Berg came over from Gross-Giewitz. I did not spend the day in the Queen’s room, but only went in often, as the members of the ducal family were constantly with her. People here unfortunately lead such an idle, unoccupied life, that nobody ever does anything

sensible, and neither can I now on account of the nursing, but I shall be truly thankful when we can get away from this.'

'July 7.

'The doctor told me that the Queen had coughed less in the night; she had no fever at all in the morning, and was only very weak. I saw her several times but did not dare to speak to her, as she had not enough peace and quiet without that. But what can I do? I have never been treated as I have been here; neither in the Queen's confinements nor illnesses have I ever been kept so much away from her. I fear it will be a long time before the Queen recovers from this illness and its consequences. According to Köckritz's letters the King is getting better. As the courier arrived in the doctor's absence, I did not give the King's letter to the Queen, and indeed saw unfortunately hardly anything of her all day. I sent a courier to Charlottenburg, and wrote to beg that the cook Schraden might come here. Frau Schulz arrived here at last this morning.'

'July 8.

'Sunday.—I did not go to church, that I might not be out of the way for a moment, for

my anxiety about the Queen is still very great in spite of the momentary improvement. I saw her for above a quarter of an hour, to give her news of the King in presence of the doctor. Her cough and weakness are really terrible, but she slept more quietly to-day. Her sister is constantly with her. May Almighty God take pity upon us! In the evening the Queen was not so well; the fever returned, with violent coughing, perspiration, and great weakness; the doctor says that it is all right and must run its course. I cannot interfere or do anything, and, under these circumstances, have a very weary time here. The King unfortunately has still got fever; the courier came to-day as usual, and I answered by him. I sent to Gross-Giewitz for a horsehair cushion for the Queen, and they sent me one belonging to little Felix, which I took to the Queen.'

'July 9.

'The Queen slept badly, with much heat and fever, and yet the doctor persists still that she is going on well. I only saw her for a little while, and found her weak and exhausted beyond belief. The Duke is impatient and irritable about everything. The courier brought a favourable bulletin

from the King, who, thank God, is better. For the last two days I have had supper alone with Prince George. Frau von Berg has gone to Berlin.'

'July 10.

'The Queen has slept little, is very weak; her cough is worse, and in my opinion she is feverish again. Princess Solms is always with her, and I could unfortunately only see her for a moment. After dinner Dr. Heim arrived at last, sent by the King; he saw the Queen, thought that it might have been better to bleed her again, but on the whole that she had been quite rightly treated. But she still has fever; this is the eleventh day, and Heim thinks also that the illness will not be a short one. It is a heavy time, God only knows *how* heavy! I received a courier from Wittgenstein, who begged for news of the Queen, and then one from the King; wrote many letters for both couriers, and then remained quite alone, even for supper.'

'July 11.

'Heim thinks there is more fever again to-day, and the poor dear Queen has not slept well either; and yet he has every hope, insists only upon great care and prudence, for he says the

lungs have suffered. He dined with the Duke, played whist with him in the evening, and was in a very amiable temper. The courier came and went as usual ; I gave the Queen a letter from the King, and then wrote to him according to my custom. I think he must have written to the Queen about me, at least she said something to me and was very kind and pleasant to me.'

'July 12.

'Heim went away, alas ! this evening ; he is not thoroughly satisfied with the Queen's state ; the fever, cough, and weakness remain unchanged, and he says that it is not only inflammation of the lungs, but in consequence of that she has had a sort of abscess in the lungs, which has now burst, and it is that which has caused the cough. It is this also that may become serious if great care is not observed ; Hieronimo says that he was aware of all this before, but I doubt it, for it was Heim who pointed it out to him. May God help us ! I suffer more than I can say in my trouble of heart.

'The ducal party went out driving ; I did not leave my room, and wrote letters for Heim to take with him in answer to innumerable inquiries.'

‘July 13.

‘The poor Queen slept but little, and has still much fever ; leeches were applied, and she lost a great deal of blood ; this lasted nearly six hours, and then warm sponges were laid on to allow the blood to flow, and so it went on all day. I was not even informed of all this, or called in, and the way in which I am treated and kept away from my Queen is *terrible* to my feelings. God grant only that the Queen ; may be saved I will not think about myself. In the evening I wrote to the King, and in the morning I sent off a second courier to summon Frau Reinbrecht, as the elder waiting-woman has fallen ill. We had a great scene between the doctor and the cook ; the former has a very high opinion of himself.’

‘July 14.

‘A rather better night ; Frau von Berg arrived, saw the Queen for a little while, and talked a great deal to her about Charlottenburg, where she had just been, and wishes to sit up with her. I saw the dear Queen only for a very little ; she is never now quite without fever ; the doctor is furious about the senseless arrangements of the sick-room, but I cannot make any changes ;

it is a dreadful state of things here, and causes me terrible grief and anxiety to see it. I only went very late to rest for a few hours, but oh! I have no rest now !'

'July 15.

'Sunday.—I did not go to church, of course. Frau von Berg had sat up; the poor dear Queen has again had a great deal of fever, coughed much, and slept little. Her breathing is now very short, and the cough much more persistent than before. I saw the Queen several times to-day and for longer; the younger Reinbrecht had arrived and brought the Queen a letter from the King, which gave her great pleasure, and in consequence of which she asked more frequently for me, and again showed me the most touching kindness and goodness. Ah! indeed, I know without her telling me so kindly that it is not her fault! An entertainment given by Prince Schwarzenberg in Paris has had a horrible termination; a fire broke out in the ball-room, and the unfortunate Princess was burnt to death while looking for her daughter.'

'July 16.

'The Queen, thank God, had a much quieter night: when I first saw her this morning, I found

her decidedly better than yesterday, but still short of breath. As she already sees too many people, I remained, out of prudence and anxiety for her, only a short time in the sick-room, painful as it is to me not to see her. At twelve o'clock Herr von Buch called me just as I had gone to my room ; the poor Queen was seized with frightful spasms. I flew to her ; the whole family was in the room, and the doctor ; the Queen's face was quite distorted, and she seemed to be choking. I trembled with fear, and could not conceive how this new misfortune could have come so suddenly. The attack lasted a long time. I sent the courier Müller to the King, to whom I wrote everything ; the doctor also wrote to Heim to come at once, and bring a surgeon with him. God grant that they may all soon come ! I have great fears for her. The rest of the day was comparatively free from pain, and so was the evening. I received a courier from Wittgenstein. Oh ! what anxiety ! what grief !'

'July 17.

'The Queen had spasms again this morning ; her breathing is very short ; I think her *very* ill. After dinner arrived Heim, Gerke, and Schmidt, and found her in great danger. They think that

the lungs are seriously affected, and recovery almost impossible. God alone knows what sorrow rends my heart as I write this. I gave the Queen a letter from the King, which she could not read at first ; but a little later she did, and was indescribably happy over it.

‘ Princess Solms and Frau von Berg have both been continually in her room for some days past, and always sit up together.

‘ I sent Büchner as a courier to the King, with a letter from Heim ; then came my grandson Voss from Berlin ; he had been with the King, and brought me a most kind and gracious letter from him. My grandson went away this evening ; Dr. Gerke sat up with the Queen, and I only went in from time to time, as I do every night.’

‘ July 18.

‘ My poor Queen is very ill to-day ; each time that I went to her I thought her worse and more altered. Heim sent a courier to the King in the morning, and a little later I sent Hoffmann to him, and wrote to him again that the Queen was still worse. I sat by her bedside till midnight. Oh ! my poor Queen, she was terribly ill.’

‘ July 19.

‘ Ah ! what an unhappy, dreadful day ! I hoped

in vain all night that the King would come ; at one o'clock I went to my room for a moment ; I was called back hastily, as the Queen's condition was getting worse every moment. She could hardly breathe at all, then sickness came on, and repeated fainting. At last, about five o'clock, the King arrived, but the Queen had already the mark of death upon her brow. And yet how she received him ! With what joy she embraced and kissed him, while he wept bitterly ! The Crown Prince and Prince William had come with him ; the poor Queen tried to speak to them as much as was still possible to her ; she wanted so to talk to the King, and could not. So it went on, and she grew constantly weaker. The King sat on the edge of the bed, and I knelt beside it ; he tried to warm the Queen's cold hands, then held one, and put the other into my hands, that I might rub it warm. It was about nine o'clock ; the Queen had turned her head gently to one side, and looked fixedly up to heaven. With her great eyes wide open, and looking upwards, she said, "I am dying ; oh ! Jesus, help me !" It was a moment such as no one could ever forget. I begged the King to close her eyes, for the last breath had flown. The sobs and tears of the

unhappy King, of the children, and all who knelt around, were terrible. The ways of God are inscrutable and holy, but they are hard to follow. The King, the children, the country, the Court, *all*, yes *all*, have lost in her *everything* in the world. I do not speak of myself, but oh! my sorrow is great.

‘The King charged Schilden and me to see to everything which has to be done in the Queen’s room, and to the watching by her, and all other matters.

‘The master of the household and Countess Truchsess kept watch the first night in the room where our guardian angel, our departed Queen, lay; the second night the officers kept watch, and the third night the gentlemen-in-waiting, with officers also in the ante-chamber and a waiting-woman always with the lady-in-waiting. Herr von Buch went away immediately to take the news to Berlin; soon after arrived the Prince and Princess of Orange, the Princess of Hesse and the Countess Brandenburg; then Countess Tauenzien, Gaudy and Wrangel, some of whom had to go to Strelitz to be lodged in the palace there.’

‘July 20.

‘I live still in spite of my grief! She is hardly

at all changed ; they examined the body, and found a polypus in the heart, the right lung almost gone ; in any case she could not have lived long, and must have suffered much. The doctors say that the polypus in the heart is the result of great and constant sorrow, of which she has had so much ! The poor King is in a state of dull despair. I sat with him for a long time ; he is always going into her room. I cannot imagine how he is ever to control and calm himself and bear it.

‘ My grandson Voss arrived, and he and Colonel Bork went into waiting with the King. The Princes and Princesses, who came from Berlin yesterday and spent the night at Strelitz, all came over from there to-day, and at four o’clock went back to Berlin.

‘ The King and his children went away at six this evening, poor young Princess Charlotte and Prince Charles too, who to their great grief only arrived a few hours after the death. Countess Tauenzien remained here and kept watch for the night. In the evening an impression in wax was taken of the Queen’s face, for a bust of her to be made.’

‘July 25.

‘We left Hohen-Zieritz at four in the afternoon ; I followed in a mourning-coach immediately behind the hearse at a foot’s pace to Gransee. The troops and the Strelitz Ministers and ladies-in-waiting only accompanied the coffin as far as Dannenwalde, where it was received by 120 men of the Guards. In Gransee a wooden house had been built, in which the coffin was placed for the night, three officers keeping watch by it besides the other guard.’

‘July 26.

‘The following morning we went on at seven o’clock, and remained for the next night at Oranienburg. Prince Charles of Mecklenburg and the Provincial Councillor von Ziethen, besides us of the household, accompanied the coffin.’

‘July 27.

‘At seven o’clock again left Oranienburg, still at a foot’s pace, and arrived at the palace in Berlin a little after eight in the evening. What I have suffered in these three days no words can say. The coffin was placed in the throne room. The King’s kindness and goodness to me were touching.’

‘July 28.

‘Our departed angel begins to show signs of change to-day ; we cannot let her be seen again. On the way the coffin was opened for inspection daily ; yesterday even I saw my angel Queen again, but to-day, for the first time, she is no longer the same. I have of course to spend many hours beside the catafalque, the hours, that is, when people are allowed to come. I hear that three regiments have been ordered here for the day of the funeral. To-day the poor unhappy King spent more than an hour in my room. Ah ! how much he is to be pitied !’

‘July 30.

‘This was the sad day of the funeral ! The King came to me early this morning and stayed for a little while ; in the middle of the day I went as usual to the palace to perform my duties there. At six in the evening the coffin was again opened in the presence of the Ministers, who drew up a record of it. Ah ! how changed she was ! The King came in also, but he did not look at her again ; at half-past seven began the funeral service. I cannot write any more !’

‘July 31.

‘The King came to see me as usual for half

an hour in the morning, and told me that every-
thing was to remain exactly as it had been before,
and that he entrusted to me the superintendence
of the three Princesses. He dined with me, drove
in the afternoon to Charlottenburg, and had
supper in my rooms again.'

'August 1.

'We dined at Charlottenburg; after dinner I received from the King an indescribably touching and affecting letter concerning the past, and in it he again entrusts to me the care of the Princesses and the little Prince Albert, in words that deeply affected me. All the Princes and Princesses drank tea with me; the King remained alone in his room.'

'August 2.

'We are quite established now at Charlotten-
burg.'

'August 3.

'Birthday of our poor, poor King. He has forbidden all congratulations. We drove to the Peacock Island; the King's brothers, sisters, and children were the only people with him, and took him their presents there. I gave him a marble slab for a table, seven marble statuettes, and a Flora also in marble with a flower-vase. The King

has settled the duties of the three ladies-in-waiting. Countess Truchsess goes to Princess Charlotte, Countess Tauenzien to Princess Alexandrina, and Countess Gurowska to Princess Louisa. Every thing remains in other respects exactly as it was before.'

'August 29.

'The King sent me the Queen's every-day breakfast service, and her great silver looking-glass, and desired that the latter should be put into my bedroom; and afterwards he came to me himself—oh! with what sorrow!'

'August 31.

'The King came to me this evening, and brought me his portrait and that of the Queen set in brilliants, both to be worn with the ribbon and scarf of the Black Eagle. I cried very much, and he cried too. He is most especially kind to me, and overwhelms me with fresh presents and gifts—but oh!'

'September 2.

'The King wanted to have the Princes with him at Potsdam; I answered that they had caught cold, and I did not think it wise to send them, and upon that I received a charming note from

him, kind and amiable as usual. He has the disposition of an angel.'

'December 23.

'Ah! what a day! I rose at seven and drove with the two Vierecks to Charlottenburg. The weather was frightful; the King and the Princes had gone on before us. This morning at four o'clock the beloved remains had been brought from the cathedral to Charlottenburg, with an escort of the Guards, and followed by the gentlemen of the household. A little after ten we went to the mausoleum, where Ribbeck gave a discourse which was said to be very fine; but I cannot tell, for my tears nearly choked me. The King with all his children followed the coffin on foot, and after him walked every one else; only Massow and I drove. The King and the Royal children were placed in a sort of room above the vault, we others in the peristyle. After the sermon and the prayers the King and his children went down to the coffin and wept in the most heart-breaking way. When he was gone I also went down with the others; I felt as if my soul was being torn from my body—it was too terrible!

'When I returned to the palace, I went at once to the King, who was in a state of indescribable

grief. It was too dreadful to see him. He drove back to Potsdam with his two eldest sons. I remained here with the younger children.'

'January 1, 1811.

'The Almighty has willed that I should still live another year; I am now more than eighty-one years of age, and very near eighty-two.'

'January 7.

'Every morning I go for a little while to the King. He dines with us; and in the afternoon he comes to me, and remains with me to tea, and through the evening till after supper. Count Henckel generally reads out aloud. He is now reading some anecdotes from Russian history, which are very interesting.'

'January 15.

'Reading aloud this evening as usual. Henckel is now reading the life of Prince Eugene of Savoy, which is very well written.'

'January 21.

'Every day like the last; I go early to the King, and after dinner he comes to me, and remains till the evening. We always read aloud, and that is a pleasure and a relief.'

‘January 20.

‘To-day, for the first time, the King went for a little while to the opera. “The Vestal” was given. Then he supped with me.’

‘February 21.

‘The King comes as usual in the afternoon, and remains to tea in my room. The elder Royal children are always there also. There is reading aloud till supper time. Henckel is now reading the history of the great Elector by Erman ; it is a manuscript, which is very difficult to read, but it is very good.’

‘February 23.

‘Dear Princess Alexandrina’s birthday. A little *déjeuner* was given in her honour, in her own apartments. The King was also there ; and I went over, but I cried so dreadfully that I had to go away. All the Royal children, excepting those that were ill, dined with us, and then they all drank tea with me. The Princess of Orange gave a little dance, and the King and Princess Charlotte went for an hour, and then came back to supper with me.’

‘March 10.

‘The King went to church. Ribbeck preached a very good sermon. What a happy day this

used to be ; and now what a miserable one ! The King remained alone the whole day, dined in his room, and came alone in the evening to me. I saw no one else.'

' March 11.

' My sorrowful birthday, which I have once again reached, through so much sorrow.'

' March 19.

' The King had a conference in my room with Prince Wittgenstein and Herr von Buch. The late Prince Ferdinand has been brought from Saalfeld to Belle Vue, and was to have been buried quite quietly in the cathedral. But the King will not let it pass without some ceremony. The Ministers fear Napoleon's resentment, but such considerations rouse and anger the King, and he is quite right not to listen to them in this matter. He has positively ordered that the Prince's children shall receive the coffin in the cathedral, and that a portion of the garrison, all the household, and the Ministers shall follow it. It will take place on the evening of the 21st.'

' March 20.

' I was unfortunately obliged to contradict the King yesterday about the way in which the

younger ladies-in-waiting wear their mourning, and had quite a scene with him.'

'March 21.

'Early this morning a little note was brought to me from the King, in which he apologised in the most touching manner for having vexed me yesterday. I answered him at once, and said I had been naturally much concerned, but that he well knew my deep attachment to him, and that all I ever asked of him was firmness. Later I went to him at my usual hour, and he was very cordial to me.

'The King and the Royal children went to the cathedral to wait the arrival of Prince Louis's body. The others followed the coffin in carriages from Belle Vue. The procession was very fine and stately, though only a small proportion of the troops were there, for fear of the whole appearing as a demonstration. I remained alone in my room. These recollections touch my heart too deeply. The ladies-in-waiting, &c., saw the procession from the windows of the first-floor. The beautiful state carriage which the late King had had made in Strasburg followed nearest the coffin. The Marshal and Prince Augustus went in it.'

'March 22.

'The French have crossed the Elbe on their way to Stettin with 4,000 men, to relieve the garrison of Dantzig, which is to go to Spain. Everybody is greatly excited over this movement, especially the poor, poor King. To-day is the birthday of the dear young Prince William. The children dined with us, and had tea and supper with me, when they made a terrible noise. The poor King was very quiet and sad the whole evening.'

'April 1.

'The King gave me an immense "*poisson d'Avril*," which he had drawn himself.'

'April 10.

'The King gave me to-day a cup with the portrait of the late Queen.'

'April 12.

'I performed my devotions, and went to the Holy Communion at St. Nicholas. I cried bitterly at the recollection of all that I had formerly experienced in this place, when I went with my beloved Queen to our Lord's table. When I returned home I received a touching, heart-breaking letter from the poor, dear King.'

'August.

'Napoleon is going to Hamburg. So it is said at least, but one never knows where to have him. His troops come and go, without end. Things are not to his liking in Spain, but it is too far from here for us to learn the real truth. The Princes of the Rhine Confederation behave most pitifully. It is lamentable to see.'

. . . .
There are only a few notes of the year 1812, a severe illness having left Countess von Voss very weak and incapable of writing.

'January 20, 1813.

'To-day the ceremony of the confirmation of the Crown Prince took place; but I was too unwell to go to the church, which grieved me very much. I wrote some verses upon it, which I gave to the Crown Prince. All the Princes and their suites were in the church, and I heard that the holy ceremony had been very fine and stately. The King will go to-morrow with the Prince to the Holy Communion.'

'January 21.

'To-day cost me many tears. The King went with the Crown Prince to the Communion; then I

received a note from the former, showing his great goodness to me, but also the most painful and touching feelings. I also received a charming letter from the Crown Prince. All the Royal children go with the King, on the 24th, to Breslau. The French are again coming and going. The Russians are marching into Pomerania. The King himself goes to-morrow, which grieves and troubles me very much. It is so hard that I must part with the Royal children, and that my weakness will not allow me to go with them to Breslau !'

' January 22.

' The King gave me on leaving a snuff-box with a portrait of the dear Queen, and accompanied by such a beautiful, sublime, really wonderful letter. Princess Charlotte herself brought them both to me, by his directions.

' The King started quite early to-day. Only Natzmer is with him. I was very unhappy. May God lead and accompany him, and watch over him !'

' January 23.

' A sad day. I had to take leave of my beloved Princesses and remain quite alone. In

the course of the day I received two despatches from the King, and wrote to him at Beeskow.'

'January 24.

'Oh! it has been a hard parting for me! All the Royal children really left to-day. I was very much upset. The King passed the night at Sagan. St. Marsan also goes to Breslau.'

'January 29.

'All that is seen of the armies are the French who arrive here half-dead, and Russian prisoners whom they are taking to France.'

'February 3.

'I had a delightful letter to-day from Princess Charlotte. The news from the army is so uncertain that no one knows what to believe.'

'February 10.

'The Russians are already in Warsaw. All the young men leave here for Breslau, to join the volunteers.'

'February 11.

'It is hardly known whether we shall be French or Russians, fate looks so dark and

threatening. All who can, flock to Breslau to join the rifle regiments which the King is raising.'

' February 12.

' Alexander is in Warsaw. Augereau had determined that our Guards should not march out, but, thank God, in spite of him they left at six o'clock this morning.'

' February 15.

' It is said that the Russians are advancing. Oh ! if we only dared resolve to join the right side.'

' February 17.

' The Russians defeat the French everywhere, those even who have just left here were beaten at once. I only wish they had all left the town, and that at last the Russians would take possession. But oh ! to think that no one knows now on which side we shall fight !'

' February 18.

' They say that a battle has taken place at Blumenberg, and that the Russians are victorious. Oh ! if they would only come !'

' February 19.

' The Russians are coming nearer, but the French are determined not to leave the town.

They will wait for them, and defend themselves here.'

'February 20.

'The Cossacks are before all the gates in the town ; they were even in the Thiergarten. The French have stationed guns at the Brandenburg gate, and all round the palace, and are determined to hold the town ; but nothing came of it, only a couple of men wounded. They all came running to me, to beg me to go up to the first-floor, on account of possible fighting in the streets. The French concentrated themselves round the palace, and it was thought it would come to a serious fight, but the Cossacks suddenly retreated and disappeared. The whole day there was noise and uproar without end. I wrote to Augereau, to beg him not to make the town unnecessarily the scene of a collision. He sent Mr. Lefevre to me to say that he could not act otherwise than he had already done. I wrote to the King. But the letter could not be sent, as the enemy would not allow any courier to pass. I then sat down quietly to my rubber with Buch, Böttcher, and Lottum, and when they were gone went to bed. God will soon assist us.'

‘February 21.

‘Sunday.—No service. All the churches are closed by order of Augereau, and no bells are permitted to be rung. My letter has at last gone to the King; but there was a terrible noise and tumult in the streets, as the French are making their preparations for war. It is said that the whole body of the Russians are advancing, and they are determined only to fight in the town itself. In the evening there was such a noise outside the windows that it was impossible to play whist.’

‘February 22.

‘The Viceroy of Naples arrived with a number of troops; General St. Cyr had already arrived during the night, and guns appeared on every side, even on the Wilhelm’s Platz.

‘The Viceroy rode close by my window. I only saw his face. The troops are stationed round about the town. The marching through of the French occupied the whole day, but in the evening at last they went off, even those who had camped round the palace.

‘As for me, I had my usual gentlemen for my rubber, supped with them, and then went quietly to bed. The night passed quite quietly.

‘The “Tugendbund” here has been intriguing against the King, and trying to get up a disturbance in the town. Prince Henry allowed himself to be persuaded by them, and Brockhausen, Stägemann, and Kühlwetter were also there; they tried to gain over Goltz to their plan, but he appealed strongly to their consciences, and represented to them that a disturbance now would be most foolish and ruinous, and so this absurdity has for this time passed over without any harm done; but all these machinations against the King’s will are agitating, and therefore ruinous. It is said that the French will after all not wait for the Russians, but go away before the latter come, and I believe it is so.’

‘February 23.

‘Dear Princess Alexandrina’s birthday. I sent her a sash and a necklace.

‘The French cavalry marched early this morning, and have fought the Cossacks outside the town. The Viceroy is in Köpenick, the Cossacks in Oranienburg, Pankow, and Schönhausen. In the evening I had the usual gentlemen for my whist.’

‘February 24.

‘The town is quiet. It is hoped that the

French will go of their own accord. I hear that one must be cautious with the couriers. General Benckendorf, who is in Müncheberg, opens all the letters he can lay hold of. Goltz has been with Prince Henry, and has seriously advised him not to put himself at the head of this foolish, thoughtless students' confederation, as the King would never forgive him.'

'February 25.

'Augereau has gone suddenly, but the French troops are still all here. The whole day long that everlasting coming and going. Little skirmishes take place outside the gates, but no serious attack.

'The Emperor Alexander is in Breslau. Unfortunately no letters can come in here. I wait patiently for whatever may happen. We have horrible weather. In the evening my rubber as usual.'

'February 26.

'They say here that the Russians cannot come, because the bridge at Frankfort-on-the-Oder has been burnt by the French, and a new one must be built. But no one knows or guesses what is going on outside, how it exactly stands, nor what may happen to us next.'

‘February 27.

‘Everything unchanged, always the same uncertainty. The Viceroy has had barricades of great beams erected before the gates to defend them. Oudinot and some others, who wanted to get out during the night, have been made prisoners by the Cossacks, who swarm around the town. Fresh French troops have marched into Potsdam, and nothing more is heard of the Russians.’

‘February 28.

‘Just the same position as hitherto. It is to be wished that it may soon come to an end. And oh! never anything from Breslau!’

‘March 1.

‘Thank God, news at last from the King. He is quite determined upon war. There is constant firing and skirmishing before the gates. Numbers of wounded are brought in, but that is all.’

‘March 2.

‘It said that the Russians cannot advance on account of the bad roads. We await them anxiously, but in vain. The same little warfare continues round the town. It is asserted that the Russians are eight miles from Dresden; the Court

has fled, the King to Plauen, and the King's brother to Baireuth. This Court is not a favourite with me. I do not admire it.'

'March 3.

'The French really marched out at last to-day. The Viceroy of Naples, on leaving, sent a courteous message from Charlottenburg to Prince Henry, and the latter sent Count Brühl to him with an answer, and then the Viceroy departed with the troops.'

'March 4.

'To-day the Cossacks and a few other cavalry regiments rode into the town; the people were half mad with joy, and received them with endless cheering. Every trace of the French troops was destroyed at once, therefore there was not the slightest collision, and everything was conducted with peace and order. Only a few stragglers and marauders, who were roving about the town, were seized by the Russians. It was the end of March, last year, that the French entered, and they have been here nearly a year God grant they may never return !

'Prince Repnin and Mussin-Puschkin came to me early this morning, just as I got up, and I

was very glad to see them again. Then I wrote to the King. There was a tremendous running about, everybody came and went. An entire Russian regiment bivouacked under my windows, and go in pursuit of the enemy to-morrow. In the evening the suburbs of Spandau were burned, as the French wished to keep possession of the fortress, although every one was convinced that the Viceroy was far too eager to get on, to do so in earnest.'

'March 5.

'Thank God! Letters from Breslau. The war is in full force everywhere. Repnin and Kutusoff came to me, and remained for the evening. The former looks very well, and is dear to me for old friendship sake. As soon as York's corps arrives here they will go on. May God now guide our affairs to a good ending! It is said that the Emperor Alexander is in Breslau, and it is hoped that the King will allow himself to be urged on by him and not delay any longer.'

'March 6.

'All news is so contradictory and uncertain, and so much that is false is intentionally spread abroad, that nothing is known with certainty, and nothing is known of the French, either where they

are, or whether they are waiting for the Russians to fight them, or are retreating. It is thought that the Austrians will not hastily engage themselves, and at first will remain inactive. I hope it is not true. It would be unwise of them.'

'March 7.

'The Prince of Orange arrived to-day. The Cossacks overtook the French at Bellin, and caused them great losses. I pity these poor men unspeakably who perish so miserably and are so uselessly sacrificed—all to satisfy the ambition of this wretched miscreant who, in the meantime, as we are told, is entertaining himself by having his wife crowned in Paris.'

'March 10.

'A day of painful recollections of my adored Queen. The news of the conclusion of an alliance with Russia is now anxiously and ardently looked for.'

'March 11.

'Providence has let me live another year; it is now the 84th. I begin it with thanksgiving, but I am also ready at any moment for the last farewell. A crowd of people were in my room from morning till evening. Prince Wittgenstein

brought me a present from the King. At twelve o'clock the Russian General, Count Wittgenstein, entered the town with all the troops; a great *déjeuner* was given, and then a great dinner at the palace to the generals and officers. Count and Countess Wittgenstein came to me in the evening; both are very pleasant and amiable.'

'March 12.

'I wrote to the King. It is thought that he will himself take the command of the army. General Dörnberg, who made the unfortunate attempt at a rising in Cassel, arrived to-day and came to see me.'

'March 13.

'Great subscription ball in the theatre in honour of the Russians. All the Princesses were there, and also a great many Russian ladies who had come with the troops, and were all presented.'

'March 14.

'General Blucher has received the command of a large army corps, which is to march into Saxony. Prince William was to be made Governor of Berlin, but he declines, and prefers to go with Blucher into the field. Prince Henry will go with the Russians, that is, with Count Wittgenstein.'

‘March 15.

‘Great dinner at Prince Henry’s. I wrote to the King and also to the Emperor at Breslau. May God help our dear King to bring things to a good conclusion! Countess Tauenzien is to go to Pomerania, and is inconsolable about it.’

‘March 17.

‘More troops marched in here under York to-day. They looked superb. Great *déjeûner* at Prince Henry’s for all the Prussian and Russian superior officers. After dinner a great christening at the Radziwills, with all the world present. In the evening the town was illuminated, and there were hurrahs, cheers, and shouts of joy at the Opera House and all the theatres.’

‘March 24.

‘The King, who has been for some days in Potsdam, rode here to-day. Count Wittgenstein rode to meet him, and had a salute fired in the Thiergarten in his honour. The King inspected his troops, who were ranged on both sides “Unter den Linden,” and then rode along the ranks of the Russians, who were stationed opposite the palace and in the “Lustgarten.” The hurrahs and cries of “Long live the King” were

without end. Oh! how pleased I was. He saw me at the window and nodded to me. Alo-päus and his daughter Alexandrina saw it all with me from my rooms. When the King reached the palace I went over to him, and dined with him in spite of my cough and weakness. Only Knesebeck, Wrangel, and Natzmer dined with us. In the afternoon the King talked to me for a long time, and told me all that had happened. In the evening he went to the opera, where they gave "Armida." He took his place in the big box, and was enthusiastically received. Then he went into the little box, and after the theatre he came and supped alone with me. He was in a very good humour, and I was very happy.'

'March 25.

'Great dinner in the picture gallery at the palace.'

'March 27.

'To-day there was an early open-air service for the troops round about the palace. Then York's whole corps marched out. May God be with them!'

'March 29.

'The King was very busy, and only came round here in the evening and supped with me.

It was a very sad parting to me. He goes back to Breslau, and the Crown Prince to the army, that is, to Blucher.'

'April 1.

'The King has arrived safely in Breslau, and goes from there to the Emperor, at Kalisch. They are beginning to bombard Spandau. Poor town, it is dreadful !'

'April 25.

'Ever since I wrote the above I have been ill and lying at death's door, and now I am again better by God's will, and able to get up for an hour every day.

'Much has happened since ; yesterday the unfortunate fortress of Spandau, which has suffered much, capitulated at last. The French have abandoned it and drawn off their forces, some 2,000 men. The King has been in the neighbourhood of Dresden since the 24th.'

'April 29.

'My King and the Emperor are in Dresden ; it is not known whether Napoleon is at Erfurt or in Paris. Goltz is to go to Stralsund to receive the Crown Prince of Sweden. We have no other news, and hear nothing but false rumours and lies.'

‘May 2.

‘Thanksgiving service for the surrender of Thorn and Spandau.’

‘May 5.

‘The happy intelligence of a victory to-day. The battle began on the 2nd and lasted till the 3rd. The King had two horses shot under him. Prince Leopold of Homburg has fallen. May God continue his help to us !’

‘May 6.

‘An official despatch from Dresden, where the King now is, came for me, and another for Alopäus while he was with me. God be thanked and praised ! We were all beside ourselves with joy. Wittgenstein renewed the attack on the 4th, and the French have been thoroughly beaten and driven back. The whole day long there was such a crowd of people in my room that I was quite worn out. All wanted news ; the mingled joy and excitement were indescribable. But the losses, alas ! are also great ; a terrible number of wounded. The King and the Emperor are very happy, and the city of Dresden has illuminated.’

‘May 9.

‘To-day a Te Deum was sung for our

victory, and salutes were fired. The King is at Bautzen.'

'May 12.

'People think that the French will cross the Elbe and throw themselves again upon Berlin. Every one is leaving the town already; the Princesses are all going to Stargard, and I am urged to go also, although I decidedly do not wish it, and am besides so ill that I cannot stand. They want now to carry me into the carriage; it is really very hard that they will not leave me here in peace.'

'May 20.

'After a long and fatiguing journey I arrived at Stargard to-day, and found the Court and half Berlin there. I am better, but cannot yet stand. Napoleon is said to be in Dresden, and to have sent word to the King of Saxony that if he did not return to the town within twenty-four hours he would appoint another King.'

'September 14.

'Our beloved King is called the protecting angel of Bohemia, and the Emperor Francis has given him his order of Maria Theresa.'

'October 22.

'General Stutterheim came early this morning

to my bedside to announce to me an unparalleled victory which has been won by our allied armies at Leipzig. The town has been taken by storm ; the King of Saxony and four French generals taken prisoners. Napoleon spent the whole of the previous day sitting in front of the city gate on a scarlet carpet on which all his maps were spread out, and making plans for his army which, by the great mercy of God, are all foiled and baffled. 500,000 men were in arms there, and Divine Providence assisted us and gave us the victory. Great spoils have also been taken, 186 guns in all. There are 35,000 prisoners, and the miscreant has fled to Erfurt. The King of Saxony has put himself under the protection of the allied sovereigns ; a great number of his troops and of those of Würtemberg of their own accord joined the right cause, and even during the battle fought on the German side ; the Bavarians had already united themselves to the Austrians. The little town illuminated, and all the postilions together blew their horns in honour of the victory.'

'October 23.

'Good news still ! Napoleon is retreating as fast as he can, and has already made overtures of

peace, which, however, have been rejected, and our good King has chiefly contributed to this. Prince Poniatowsky threw himself into the Elster in despair.'

'October 24.

'Wittgenstein writes to me, thank God, that I may *at last* return to Berlin. The King is to be there to-day or to-morrow, and I am very sorry not to be able to receive him; but, suffering as I am, I shall certainly be a week on the road. Our victory is complete; Napoleon is a fugitive, and the King will be more than ever worshipped in the whole country.'

'October 25.

'Set out at two o'clock in pouring rain.'

'October 27.

'I arrived at Schwedt to-day. The King reached Potsdam on the 23rd, was present at the Te Deum, and went to the theatre at night. The cheers and shouts of joy at his appearance are said to have been quite indescribable. On Monday there was a great dinner at Charlottenburg, and on Tuesday he went away again. Wittgenstein, who has always prevented me from going back to Berlin, is entirely to blame that I was not

present at all this; I wish he and his stupid fears were in Mesopotamia. The King of Saxony, with the Queen and Princess, arrived at Berlin on Monday; people say that in future he will live here in the palace at Schwedt.'

'October 30.

'To-day at midday I got back at last to this dear old Berlin in great joy of heart.'

'October 31.

'Prince Galitzin brought the King of Saxony here, and Prince Charles of Mecklenburg arrived here to-day wounded.'

'November 1.

'That impudent Prince Wittgenstein has had an extra page of the "Vossischen Zeitung" printed on my arrival, which was very funny and amusing.'

"'November 3.

'My dear and venerated King arrives tomorrow, and I am quite happy.'

'November 5.

'This evening about nine o'clock the dear King arrived, to my extreme joy. I thought him looking very well, and in other respects just as usual, only a little out of humour because he had no news of the army. He came direct from

Breslau, and with the whole Court took supper with me, and I was especially pleased with Prince William, who has grown immensely, and is very good-looking and nice.'

'November 6.

'The King came to see me early, remained for more than two hours, and talked to me about all his affairs, and of the idea of a Russian marriage for Princess Charlotte. After he was gone, I sent for the Court preacher, Sack, who told me that as she had not yet been confirmed she might still decide for the Greek Church, and enter it whenever she pleased. The King dined at Charlottenburg; in the evening he and the Princes and the household took supper with me, and it was very cheerful and lively.'

'November 7.

'My beloved King remained for a whole hour this morning, sitting comfortably with me; but to my sorrow he did not dine here, but drove to Charlottenburg for dinner; from thence in the evening to Potsdam, and then goes back to headquarters, which are at present at Weimar. He talked to me about everything, and *how* he spoke! In a word, there is not such another king, a father, a friend, to be found in the world.'

‘November 23.

‘I have been unwell all this time, but to-day it *had* to be done, so I was carried in a chair to the palace, to wait upon the King and Queen and Princess of Saxony. The King appears very weak-minded; the Queen looks uncommonly good-humoured, the Princess very amiable, and all three most civil.’

‘January 1, 1814.

‘It has pleased the good God to permit me to see this day, in spite of the bodily infirmities which this year has brought upon me, besides trouble, anxiety, and grief. But the eternal mercy has supported and comforted my heart, and my greatest happiness is in my beloved King and the dear daughter who is still left to me. The whole town came to see me this morning, and finally all the clergy, and the Princess Radziwill. At last the dear Royal children are to return on the 6th.’

‘January 6.

‘This morning quite early Prince Charles arrived, and in the evening came the Princesses and their ladies. Great joy! Princess Charlotte is much grown, the others a little, the little ones are charming.’

‘January 7.

‘I gave a party to the Royal children with a twelfth-night cake, and gave them all little presents. They were very much pleased, but in future they are not to sup with me every evening as they used to do.’

‘January 8.

‘I visited the King and Queen of Saxony, to present the Royal children.’

‘January 9.

‘The Saxon King and Queen returned the visit of the Princesses, which greatly fatigued and tired me.’

‘January 22.

‘The Empress Elizabeth of Russia arrived at five o’clock this afternoon ; the gentlemen of the household drove out as far as Freienwalde to meet her. The ladies now in waiting received her here in the palace, where Princess William presented them, and Countess Goltz presented the other ladies ; all were in trains. Afterwards there was a family dinner.’

‘January 24.

‘The Empress returned all her visits to-day, and at three o’clock came to see me, and was charming as ever, very attentive to me, and much

moved at the remembrance of our Queen. There was a great state dinner at Court, then the opera in state ; the “Vestal” was performed.

‘Lord Gower is here again and comes to see me every day, which I am glad of.

‘The Empress went also to see little Princess Louisa and Prince Albert ; the elder Princesses drove back to the palace with her. Princess Charlotte looked very nice and her behaviour was admirable, and Princess Alexandrina is always particularly amiable and well-mannered.’

‘January 24.

‘To-day was the Empress’s birthday, which was celebrated in every possible way with a Court dinner and opera ; the University itself came in a body to offer their congratulations, and the whole town illuminated.’

‘January 25.

‘The dear good Empress came to-day to take leave, and then continued her journey. I begged her to spend the night at Potsdam, as the weather is frightful, and in the end she did so. She gave 3,000 ducats, a very handsome diamond necklace, and diamond clasps to Countess Tauenzien and Fräulein Bischoffsweder.

‘I gave her a footstool that I had worked for her, and some little souvenirs to her ladies. The farewell drawing-room was also in trains. I am asked about everything, and nobody follows my advice. They want me to tell them how everything is to be done, and then they think they know better. The gentlemen also all received handsome snuff-boxes and diamond rings.’

‘January 31.

‘The King sent me some dresses to-day, which I am to distribute among the Princesses, and there are some also for me and for the ladies-in-waiting.’

‘February 1.

‘The Princesses received from the King to-day a little present of handkerchiefs, and he sent me a gold musical box, which he bought in Switzerland ; it is very pretty, and sounds like a flute. Is it not wonderful how he always thinks of me too !

‘We celebrated the birthday of Princess Louisa, in whose honour I had a tea party, and gave her a breakfast service. The children were very happy, and seemed to amuse themselves very well.

‘February 2.

‘No one now knows anything in this world ;

they come to ask me about every trifle. I am amazed at this new generation, and look back to former times, which the present certainly do not resemble.'

'February 5.

'The Grand Dukes Nicholas and Michael arrived to-day. Alopäus drove to Muncheberg to meet them, and they are staying with him.'

'February 6.

'Although I have been so long ill, and am still unwell, I got up to-day to see the Grand Dukes, and had myself laid on my sofa. They came at one o'clock, and have both grown very tall and very handsome, and are very well-mannered and agreeable.

'I had the youngest of the Royal children with me that they might see them; then Radziwill gave a dinner of sixty people for them. They travel under the name of Romanoff. They went to the opera in the evening to take leave of the Princes and Princesses, and at one o'clock in the morning went away. They brought me a letter from the Empress-mother, and I gave them a letter to the King, to tell him that the elder one had especially pleased me, in view of her plan.'

'March 10.

'Once, ah! what a happy day this was—and now!

'I was too weak to see people, but I received a charming letter from my beloved King, who writes in great concern for my old health.'

'March 11.

'My old birthday again to-day. I made an effort to get up. The dear Princesses came, and brought me their presents; Princess Charlotte a seal ring, Frederika a ring, the dear Alexandrina a shawl-pin, Prince Charles a little box, and the ladies-in-waiting and my dear daughter Castell overwhelmed me with kindness and affection; and above all, a beautiful present came for me from the King.'

'April 5.

'Great news: a battle at La Fère, in Champagne, on February 25. Napoleon was so thoroughly beaten that he had to fly in all haste, and at this moment our troops must be already in Paris! *Nine* generals have been taken prisoners, 40 guns captured, 10,000 prisoners made. We are assured that Napoleon's retreat is cut off on all sides.'

‘April 6.

‘My days are still very suffering; besides I have so much trouble with the governesses and all sorts of people. I meditate much on the past, the present and the future, but the latter cannot be long for me in this world. Eternity remains the one important thing! ’

‘April 7.

‘To-day I drove again with little Princess Louisa “Unter den Linden.” I have no news, alas! Wittgenstein always spends the evening with me, and I have my rubber.’

‘April 8.

‘General Galitzin paid me a long visit to-day; he often comes to see me now, and is very agreeable. I have always too many visits, inquiries, and people of all sorts with me early and late.’

‘April 9.

‘Daily and hourly we are vainly expecting the news that the King has entered Paris. May God guard and keep him, and grant that I may see him but *once* more, then I shall be happy.’

‘April 10.

‘When I woke this morning I received the

glorious news that the King and the Emperor are both really in Paris. The Senate went out to meet them ; in every street “À bas Bonaparte !” and “Vivent les Alliés !” was shouted. Count Schwerin, as the messenger of victory, rode through the Brandenburg gate with the National Guards and an army of postilions behind him, and was received with endless acclamations and shouts of joy. He came to see me also to bring me a letter from my beloved King, who never forgets me. We were all beside ourselves with joy, delight, and happiness ; the dear Princesses came down to me—we all embraced and wept for joy. In the evening there was a great performance at the opera and general illumination, and my rooms were not cleared for a single instant through the whole day and evening.’

‘April 11.

‘There was a great ball yesterday also, which, however, I did not at all approve of. We are so happy we do not know how to thank God enough, and a short letter from the King redoubled my joy.’

‘April 13.

‘The Duke of Angoulême has been proclaimed King as Louis XVIII., which I am very glad of.

What fine parts our two sovereigns have played ! The Emperor Alexander has made a wonderful speech ; it is not exactly known where Napoleon himself is.'

'April 15.

'I am so happy ! People are saying to-day that Napoleon is at Melun and that his own troops have taken him prisoner, but this I do not believe.'

'April 17.

'A courier has come from the King ; Napoleon has abdicated ! At last ! After being the scourge of mankind for twenty years. He is said to have shown himself faint-hearted and pusillanimous.'

'April 21.

'Unfortunately I am still unable to walk. The Duke of Cumberland arrived to-day ; he is betrothed to Princess Solms, is civil and amusing, but unfortunately does not bear a good character. It was very hot to-day ; but I took a long drive with Felix notwithstanding.'

'April 23.

'We were all very much pleased to-day ; the King sent each of us a piece of silk for a dress and ribbons to match, for the three Princesses, the

ladies-in-waiting, and me. People appeared to be very well satisfied in Paris.'

'April 24.

'I have still got Cumberland here; he is constantly with me, but I do not like him.'

'April 30.

'Prince Solms has died suddenly; people say that he killed himself.'

'May 1.

'There are many days now when I am not equal to seeing people, and so I often pass my evenings alone. I amuse myself then with my own thoughts; at my age one has a well-stocked repertory of them.'

'May 2.

'The King has sent to inquire if I would not like to go to Montbijou so as to have the garden; he is so thoughtful for me.'

'May 18.

'The Princesses have gone with their ladies-in-waiting for a few weeks to Sanssouci, at which they are delighted.'

'May 23.

'The little girls from Giewitz arrived to-day, and came at once to see me. Mathilde is very much grown, Marie has grown very pretty, and

Elizabeth charming and funny, but she has got red hair. Their governess speaks very highly of them all.'

' June 3.

' The King went to London on the 31st, with his sons and nephews ; Prince Augustus, Natzmer, Kleist, Bülow, York, Stolberg, Schwerin, and Brauchitsch went with him.'

' June 7.

' To-day at one o'clock Count Stolberg arrived, preceded by twenty-four postilions, to bring the news of the ratification of peace.'

' June 9.

' The terms of the treaty of peace were sent to me to-day to look at. It is settled in each and every point solely for the advantage of France, and has really made me indignant.'

' June 11.

' By desire of the King I received to-day a marble statuette of our late angelic Queen, which has moved and overcome me more than I can say.'

' June 24.

I drove with Hufeland to Sanssouci. Princess Charlotte and the little cherubs were delighted to see me, and I remained to supper with them.

I found Princess Charlotte really charming, altered anew for the better both in body and mind, and I told her so. Late in the evening I drove to Potsdam.'

'June 25.

'I drove to Sanssouci again, spent the day with the dear Princesses, and late in the evening drove back to Berlin.'

'July 5.

'The volunteers and the Landwehr on their homeward march entered Berlin to-day, where they were crowned with flowers and oak-leaves, which young girls presented to them at the gates, and made much of in every way.'

'July 9.

'Prince Kurakine brought me two gold bracelets with the portraits of the Emperor Alexander and of my King.'

'July 12.

'I drove to Sanssouci again to-day, to visit the Princesses, and to offer my congratulations to Princess Charlotte on her birthday.'

'July 13.

'Spent the whole day with the dear Royal children, and returned to Berlin quite late this evening.'

‘July 25.

‘Hardenberg arrived to my great joy. He is quite his old self, brought me a gown from Paris, and from London an *étui* with implements for working. The Crown Prince has come to Potsdam, and has sent to ask me to go there for a few days to receive the King, which I intend to do.’

‘July 28.

‘Drove to Postdam, then to Sanssouci, where I found the Royal children all together; the Crown Prince is much grown, very amiable, and apparently delighted to see me again.’

‘July 29.

‘News came that the King would not be here before the 4th, and as I felt ill and weak I returned to Berlin. The Saxon Royal family has gone to Schloss Friedrichsfelde for the summer months.’

‘August 1.

‘Prince Blucher and Kalkreuth came to see me to-day.’

‘August 2.

‘Towards evening I went to Sanssouci again. The dear good Princess was very pleased to see me, which touched me very much.’

'August 3.

'Great *déjeûner* and afterwards a great dinner in honour of the King's birthday. I always said he would surely come to-day, and in fact he did arrive this evening ; but it was too late for him to drive on here, and so I did not see him any the more. There was a ball in the town, to which the Princesses went.'

'August 4.

'At about nine o'clock I drove into Potsdam, and as soon as the reception was over the King came at once to me. I gave him a beautiful cup and saucer, with a painting of the Brandenburg gate on the cup, and the Victory which the French took from us, and a picture of Culm on the saucer, and a silver-gilt salver. There was a grand dinner at Potsdam. The King has, strange to say, grown a much handsomer man ! We all dined at Sanssouci ; the King was very gracious and cheerful. Unfortunately, however, he had gone privately into Berlin, and had thought all the preparations for his reception too ostentatious, and everything too handsome and overdone. The arsenal, which had been so particularly well decorated, he had entirely cleared out, its ornaments taken down, and much blamed.'

‘August 5.

‘I went back to Berlin, and was really besieged by people and visits of all sorts.’

‘August 6.

‘Princess Solms arrived ; they say that she is to marry the Duke of Cumberland very soon.’

‘August 7.

‘At nine this morning the King made his entry ; all the soldiers, including the Russians, lined the way. Afterwards there was a religious service.

‘At eleven o’clock I had myself taken to the palace, where a dinner of three hundred people took place ; at three all was over.

‘In the evening there was a magnificent illumination of the whole town. The King and all the Princes, great and little, drove through the glittering streets. The rejoicings and the cheerful crowd lasted till late.’

‘August 10.

‘I drove to dinner at Charlottenburg, where the King now lives. He came at once to my room as formerly, and talked to me long and feelingly about everything. Countess Trucshess is to be lady-in-waiting to Princess Frederika ; Gurowska marries Herr von Friedrichs.’

‘August 12.

‘Prince George of Strelitz’s birthday. Dinner at Charlottenburg, with all the Princes and Princesses.’

‘August 13.

‘The King took Princess Charlotte to Potsdam to see the Russians come in.’

‘August 14.

‘The Russians came in soon after eight o’clock this morning. The King came to me for a little while in the morning, and then went to the theatre, where Buding gave a dinner for eighty people.’

‘August 15.

‘All the troops, Russian and Prussian together, were entertained by the King to-day. The tables stood close together over the whole of the “Lustgarten,” and along the “Linden” as far as the Brandenburg gate. The King, with a great military suite, went round himself to each table, to see and speak to the men. I dined with the King in his rooms, and then I put on the lovely embroidered China crape dress belonging to the dear Queen which he had given me. There was a great ball and fête at the Opera House; and, as the King wished it very much, I went there with

him to the great box, remained an hour, and then went home again. When I got back I found my gentleman, as usual every evening, and had my accustomed rubber in peace.'

'August 16.

'There was a great state dinner to-day in the white room. I had a beautiful train of cloth of silver, and had myself conveyed to the palace in good time. Six hundred people had been invited, and all the Russian officers. The Russian singers sang outside the windows, as the King is so fond of hearing them. The Princesses sat in a gay-coloured row, each with a Russian and a Prussian general next to her. The dinner lasted long, as toasts and healths were drunk without end. Prince Blucher made a little speech to the King, and made very honourable mention in it of Hardenberg, who responded to him in the King's name. Then there was a great performance at the opera, with free admittance to the troops, and after the opera the King came to me and supped in my room, tired and melancholy.'

'August 17.

'The wedding of the lady-in-waiting, Fräulein von Gurowska, with the Russian Colonel von

Friedrichs, took place to-day, and was celebrated in Charlottenburg.'

'September 16.

'The King stays alternately with the Royal children at Paretz, on the "Pfanen-Tusel," or at Charlottenburg. Only the two youngest remain with me in the town. When he is in Charlottenburg I go there every day to dinner. I presented Fräulein von Alvensleben to him to-day, a very pretty woman, who is to be lady-in-waiting to Princess Alexandrina. There was a great dinner. The King gave me the Louisa order, which has been instituted for the ladies who have specially looked after the sick and wounded. It is true I have given and done much; but chiefly in private, and I did not like being openly praised for it.

'In the evening I again took leave of my beloved King with a sore heart, as he goes to Vienna for the Congress. I also spoke to-day, by the King's wish, to Princess Charlotte, about her marrying the Grand Duke Nicholas. She did not say no, only that it would be hard for her to be so far separated from her father, and then she cried a great deal. I repeated all this afterwards to the King, who thanked me very much.'

‘September 18.

‘The beloved King started for Vienna at five o’clock this morning.’

‘September 19.

‘A sad day for me! As the two eldest Princesses remain for the present at Charlottenburg, I go there every day to dinner and remain a few hours.’

‘September 20.

‘The weather is lovely. For the last few days we have always dined in the open air. The Russian ambassador, Alopäus, was also there to dinner to-day.’

‘September 29.

‘They write to me from Vienna that the Emperor Francis has had the Brandenburg gate entirely copied in wood as a triumphal arch in honour of our King, which was a very pretty idea.’

‘September 30.

‘I sent Princess Frederika a quantity of roses for her birthday to-day. There was a ball in Princess Alexandrina’s rooms; I wanted very much to go to it, but was too tired, and had to return to Berlin after dinner.’

'October 1.

'To-day the dear Princesses came back again to town from Charlottenburg, which I was very glad of.'

'October 4.

'Prince Albert's birthday. There was a *déjeuner* in his apartments. Then I gave a great dinner for the Royal children and the whole Court, and it was very pretty and cheerful, only the childishness of the Princes, who kept on throwing bread pellets across the table like children, I cannot consider well-behaved. Princess Ferdinand came after dinner, and in the evening I gave a little ball in Princess Alexandrina's room, to which I invited both children and grown-up young people. But I did not stay there long, as I was very tired and exhausted, and supped alone in my rooms with only one or two people.'

'October 5.

'The King sent me word by Päpken that he should return here before the arrival of the Emperor and Empress of Russia, and sent me many kind messages.'

'October 6.

'I am always poorly and unwell now in the

morning. The whole day long I have people with me without end, which exhausts me very much. In the evening a few gentlemen to play whist, which is very pleasant and rests me. Many strangers pass through, and almost every day I have to present some to Princess Charlotte.'

' October 8.

' Sunday is now my worst day, so many people come to me that there is hardly any more space for them in my room. It is quite dreadful to me.'

' October 15.

' Great day of rejoicing in honour of our Crown Prince's birthday. I dressed myself, and would have gone to him but I could not, and so I waited in my room till he came. Every one assembled at Princess Alexandrina's, then there was dinner in Prince Louis's rooms, and in the evening Prince William gave a ball. At supper I instituted an Order of Thankfulness, and gave it to the great and small of our Court.'

' October 18.

' Anniversary of the battle of Leipzig. There was an open-air service at ten o'clock in the

morning in the Thiergarten. I drove there, but remained sitting in my carriage.'

' October 20.

' My daughter Castell left. It went very hard with me to part from her. In the afternoon I made my will, which caused me great anxiety and tired me very much. Princess Charlotte is alone with me almost every day, to my great pleasure. Fresh regiments of our troops are always arriving now. The balconies and my window are never free from spectators. In Vienna they are amusing themselves immensely, but the goings on there cause me more grief and anger than I can or ought to express.'

' November 8.

' An unfortunate day for me. I had invited the Royal children to tea, and, instead of this pleasure, a misfortune befell me. A candle, which I had placed too near the curtain, in a draught, set fire to the muslin, and in less than a minute all was in flames, and alas! all burnt. I went over to the little ones' rooms, where I remained till five o'clock, when I was lodged in Prince Louis's house, in the apartments of Prince Charles of Strelitz, who went to the palace and gave them up to me. I am very well situated here, but I have

lost so much that was dear, and cannot be replaced. My diamonds and plate are saved, but almost everything else is lost !'

' November 7.

' A quantity of people come to me every day, but they do not console me. I am very sad at having lost so many dear, beloved objects, which nothing can replace to me.

' My dear Felix comes to me every day.'

' November 11.

' My little angels came to me this evening, and that was a great pleasure.'

' November 29.

' A day of sad memories. I dined with Princess Charlotte and some Russian ladies.'

' December 3.

' Still no prospect of the King's return. The news from the Congress is always the same. If the King is only requited, I shall be satisfied.

' A fearful number of visits always, the whole day. Unfortunately I cannot go out now, and so I walk about my room, to make a little change. In the evening the usual gentlemen come to make up my game. Wittgenstein writes to me con-

stantly from Vienna, but unfortunately nothing about the beloved King's return.'

'December 9.

'No good news from the Congress. People rack their brains over the re-settlement of Germany, and wish our King to be Emperor.'

'December 10.

'Wittgenstein writes again to-day, that they are not yet coming back. I write all the morning. The dear Princesses are a great deal with me.'

'December 11.

'Always the same news unfortunately of the Congress. Nothing sensible is carried through.'

'December 12.

'The King has been ill, but is better, thank God. I had as usual a great deal of writing to do. My days are very monotonous, one passes exactly like the other. Many letters to write, and so many visits to receive.'

'I think a great deal on the eternity which awaits me. A poor mortal cannot grasp it. I am so near, and yet I cannot conceive it. No beginning, no end!'

'December 14.

'I received a beautiful present from my

beloved King, the portraits of all the sovereigns who were in the war, set in silver and hanging to a handsome chain. I wrote to him, to thank him.'

'December 16.

'I was very unwell to-day. My head is tired and confused, but towards evening I was better, and I had the same people as usual in the evening, and to make up my rubber.'

'December 18.

'The beloved Royal children were very much with me to-day.

'In this holy Advent time one's thoughts are directed more earnestly than usual to the last moments, which, especially for me, are so clearly approaching ; and how necessary it is to think of it steadily and collectedly !'

'December 19.

'No good news. France will not allow us to have our frontier on the other side of the Rhine. And with this, quadrilles and balls without end in Vienna ! It is more than sad ; it is very wrong.'

'December 20.

'Always the same afflicting, despairing news from Vienna. I wrote to Princess Kurakine. People with me as usual in the evening.'

'December 21.

'Thank God, to-morrow the days begin to lengthen again. I am better. But to-day's letters from Wittgenstein give no good news.'

'December 23.

'I always remain alone now in the morning, read and write, and only receive visits after dinner. Nothing reassuring from Vienna. It seems as if this dreadful Congress would never end.'

'December 24.

'Christmas Eve.—I gave presents to my people in the morning, and, towards the evening, to my beloved grandchildren. Then I went over to the Royal children, and gave the Princesses lockets and little ornaments, and the Princes watch-ribbons. I remained a little while in the great hall, where the presents were set out, but I was very tired, and went to bed at nine o'clock.'

'December 25.

'The Royal children were a great deal with me to-day, otherwise I was alone the whole time. Galitzin has orders to leave, on account of the want of tact he has shown.'

'December 27.

'A letter from Wittgenstein. Always the same sad news. I had a great many people today to dinner, and in the evening. My head was rather better than usual, not so dizzy and confused.'

'December 28.

'My head feels numbed and paralysed. I wrote to the beloved King, and sent him a pretty letter-case. After dinner and in the evening to supper, people as usual.'

'December 29.'

• • •
Here ends Countess von Voss's own diary. On the evening of December 29, 1814, whilst she was playing her usual rubber of whist, she was seized with paralysis, and had to be carried by her servants on her chair into her bedroom, where she was put to bed. Her good-humour did not even then forsake her, and she said, smiling, to her partners, as she was carried off, 'Do not cheat me.' General paralysis came on quickly; she soon lost consciousness, and died quietly and painlessly on the morning of December 31.

Late in the evening of the same day the body was conveyed from the Royal palace to the dwell-

ing of her grandson, Count Augustus von Voss, and his family, 'Unter den Linden,' No. 2. The Count himself had been absent for some time, and so her great-grandson, Felix von Voss, thirteen and a half years of age, alone accompanied his grandmother's coffin. The ceremony of interment took place on January 5, 1815. The procession passed up the 'Linden,' right through the Friedrich's Strasse, to the cemetery, where the coffin was placed in a mortuary chapel, next to the coffin of Princess Sacken. The Royal state carriage and many other state carriages followed, and in one of the latter the master of the household, Schilden, drove with her great-grandson. A great number of equipages also appeared, and a number of people of high position followed personally, amongst others the Grand Duke Charles of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the King's brother-in-law. The funeral sermon was preached by the Court chaplain, Sack. Countess von Voss was eighty-five years, nine months, and twenty days old. The Royal children stood at a window opposite the house of mourning, in the residence of the Royal huntsman, Count von Moltke, at the corner of the Linden and the Wilhelm's Strasse, to see the procession start. They were deeply

moved, especially Princess Charlotte, afterwards Empress of Russia, whose tears were seen to fall freely.

Not long after, her daughter, the widowed Countess zu Castell Rüdenhausen, came from Franconia to Berlin, and put in order the injured and damaged remains from the fire of November 3, 1814, from which were missing so many dear and valuable memorials, particularly pictures. The few letters from their Majesties and the rest of the Royal family, as well as other correspondents, that were saved were returned by her, and the rest burnt.

As if by a miracle, a few of the Countess's own papers had been saved from this fire, which, spreading from her bedroom, destroyed all the contents of the neighbouring apartments, and with them such a collection of interesting letters, works of art, and valuables of every sort.

Amongst those rescued was found a bundle of papers containing letters and notes from the earliest times, from which much has been extracted for the foregoing pages, also the diaries which stand complete from the year 1760, down to the last days of the writer.

Every morning she briefly set down the

events of the past day ; and so, on December 29, we find the notice of the previous day entered in her own hand, and the date of the 29th, with a dash under it, the last that hand wrote.

Within the pages of each diary lay scattered here and there a separate leaf, containing sometimes remarks on the people named in them, sometimes a short retrospect of the happy days gone by, in which she gave vent to the pain of sorrowful recollections.

We here subjoin a few of the former, shortly and slightly sketched, which have reference to the above-mentioned pages :—

‘ General von Köckritz is deeply devoted to the King ; but he is in a position which does not suit him. He has little understanding and no knowledge, has no education, and is consequently often irritable and uncivil. But, above all, he has no clear and defined principles, and that makes him wavering and unreliable. Although well-meaning, he is not clever enough to have an opinion of his own, and does incredible harm by always repeating what others suggest to him, and so allowing himself to be led and made use of, and is often, without his own knowledge, made the tool of those who talk to him cleverly and use him for their own purposes.’

‘Herr von Buch (gentleman-in-waiting to the Queen, and afterwards master of the ceremonies), is a man of much knowledge, and believes himself to possess even more than he really has. Of a very sanguine disposition, he has a good heart, and is very obliging and agreeable to everybody ; but he is not quite sincere, and always thinks he knows everything best.’

‘Herr Delbrück (the Crown Prince’s tutor) is a man of understanding and knowledge, but is too well convinced of the possession of both. He was, in fact, well qualified for the position of tutor, which he has hitherto held ; but he is entirely unfit for that of governor, for which he is now destined, and which above all requires a man of good education, of knowledge of the world, and great strength of character, qualities which utterly fail him, and which are doubly necessary for the education of the Crown Prince. This highly-gifted Prince was spoiled in his childhood by his nurses, and too early learned to know his position. Then his tutor thought, by leaving him his freedom in early youth, to develop his resolution and powers of will, and by this mistaken measure only roused his self-will, as it indulged him in every caprice. It was very short-sighted to con-

found what should have been combated with that which should have been brought out and strengthened.'

On another page, dated October 15, 1811, the birthday of the Crown Prince, so deeply loved and fondly watched over by the mistress of the household, we find the following lines :—

'This day sixteen years was one of the happiest of my life. How I look back to that October of 1795, when the dear Crown Prince first saw light, to the inexpressible joy of the King and Queen, whose first word was a thanksgiving to God. He had sent her the son so ardently desired, and who would certainly have been the great joy and pride of her heart. At the moment when this beloved Prince was born I forgot at once my age ; I seemed to have grown young again, I was so happy. I felt doubly thankful to God, after the misfortune of the previous year, when the poor Queen suffered so much and the little princess was born dead. I wondered then at her courage and resolution, and how she turned with confidence and pious hope to God in the midst of her sufferings ; and as then, so in the hardest days of her later life—at the death of her favourite little Prince Ferdinand—in the calami-

ties of war, flying from one place to another, her submission to the decrees of God remained ever the same. No unhappiness could shake the tranquillity of her soul or her trust in a Divine Providence. Her death was like her life. She did not anticipate the danger which had been carefully concealed from her, did not anticipate the terribly near approach of death, and yet when it seized her, how calmly she gave herself up to God's will. How tenderly she pressed her husband's hand, till her last breath was drawn. How touchingly she said, "I am dying—oh! Jesus, make it easy." Her prayer was heard. My God, how secret and inscrutable are thy ways, how faith struggles with pain, to hold fast the conviction, even in such moments, that what Thou doest is gracious and merciful! How often, when I am alone, I weep bitter tears for the beloved Queen, when I think what she was to her husband, to her children, to her friends, how full of goodness and kindness she was to me—beyond what I can express—how her greatest pleasure was to make others happy and to help them, and in what an incomparable manner she did it, always and everywhere, to the extent of her power, and how inconsolable she was when some

obstacle stood in her way, and for once she could not follow her generous inclinations.'

Another page, dated the autumn of 1812, speaks for the first time of the weight of increasing years and sufferings :—

'The beloved King and the Royal children overwhelm me with kindness, but the loss of my Queen has banished all happiness from my heart. My health has suffered much since those sorrowful days, and I feel my age ; but I will not complain. I place myself in the hands of the merciful God, who has led me hitherto. Since our misfortune, little has changed in our lives. The King lives at Charlottenburg for the summer, coming and going. When my health will only permit it, I go there also. The beloved King always retains his cordiality towards me, and never ceases to load me with tokens of kindness. Every one else also is touchingly good to me, excepting the late Queen's ladies. My position with regard to them is difficult ; they will submit to no authority, and yet I must do my duty. From my age and long-standing knowledge of all circumstances, I am naturally in a position to judge of what is proper for the training of the young Princesses, and of what is right in regard to manners and customs,

which must be attended to with special care, and they might well follow and trust me. It is difficult enough, without that, to arrive at a good result in the education of the Royal children, on account of the constant changes and everlasting interruptions.

'On the 28th of March of this year the French marched into Berlin, in consequence of the conclusion of the Convention. More or less, French troops have since then been here in garrison, but it is decided that they are not to disturb Potsdam or Charlottenburg. The King cannot come here now in consequence, and lives alternately at the above-mentioned places. Soon after his birthday this year, his physician sent him to Teplitz, from whence he returned in September. He is much better since then, was much pleased with Teplitz, and charmed all the world there with his courteousness. Ah! my hopes are now all centred in Russia! If the villain who is our ruin could only meet with his end there, the Russians might then break our fetters, and, united with them, we might oppose the common foe. May God grant it!'

The last of these pages is dated from Sanssouci, the 8th August, 1814, only a few months there-

fore before the death of the writer, and is in reality nothing but a wail of lamentations and inconsolable longing for the ever-lamented, never-to-be-forgotten Queen. At this time the mistress of the household was in her eighty-sixth year, and at this age, when the feelings are generally calm and cool, there are few who love and mourn with such depth and warmth of feeling as are expressed in these lines :—

‘ When I look back on my past life, picture after picture passes before my mind’s eye. How young I was when I came to Court; how soon began the unfortunate attachment of the Prince of Prussia; how long, how truly he loved me ; how unhappy I was at that time, how sad my marriage was ! Of the beloved children whom God gave me I had to give back my two sons, and my poor daughter, married at such a distance from me, was deprived of all her children one after the other. Then came the sorrows of my dear Sovereigns, the sorrows of my country, which I saw bathed in blood ; its slavery under the cruel hand of that miscreant, who for twenty long years was the scourge of mankind. And oh ! the loss of my Queen ! She died in the bitter time when we were still sighing in our humiliation and forced to be

the ally of our enemy. When this angel of a Queen was torn from us, how could I bear my grief? Ah! she was incomparable, a woman without an equal! By her own exertions she had gradually acquired much valuable knowledge; she was constantly and seriously occupied, and many unrealisable dreams and too visionary imaginations of her first youth she had conquered and set aside to face steadily and with decision the demands of reality. All who lived with her were forced to admire her remarkable comprehension and clear, firm judgment; but far, far more the purity of her heart and the deep piety of her mind. To the King is due the merit of having *greatly assisted* their inward development, but her incomparable heart was given her by God! How devotedly, how tenderly she loved her husband and her children, and what an irreparable and unutterable loss is her death to them and to the whole country. Ah! and what she was to the poor. Could I ever put that into words! How often in the days when she was still our joy and comfort have I silently thanked God for having led me in my old age to the side of such an angel.'

'The strength of feeling with which this true

servant of the Queen mourned for her in her heart gave to her last years a tinge of melancholy regret and a more serious mood. But this was only the tone of her inner life ; she spoke little of it. For the rest, nothing could have been further from her simple straightforward character than indulgence in selfish feelings, and any representation of her character that should attribute to her the smallest touch of sentimentalism would be mistaken and incorrect. It was as foreign to her nature as any fear or faltering in moments of danger.

‘ When on the 5th January, 1807, the King had to fly from Königsberg to Memel with the Queen, who was still seriously ill, the mistress of the household followed them, but on account of the stormy weather at the time could only get as far as the first station from Königsberg on that day. The snowstorm made driving difficult. As the Royal children and their suite had been sent on the evening before, every stall was empty at the post-house ; the Countess’s horses could go no farther, and fresh ones were not to be had. She alighted at a village inn to warm herself. The King’s aide-de-camp, General Köckritz, had travelled with her, and these two were the last of the

Royal household. The French were said to be on the march, and might be at Königsberg at any moment, and this news alone had induced the King, in spite of the stormy weather, to risk the journey for the Queen, who was still in a critical state. All now appeared to be saved from the approaching enemy except the two at the village inn. General von Köckritz's courage failed. He began to bewail himself, the French would hardly stop at Königsberg; they had wished to cut off the King, now that he was gone they would hasten after him, would find them both, would massacre them, or at the best take them prisoners. 'Then they would take two old women prisoners,' said the Countess quietly, and the lamentations were brought to an end.

In 1799 Countess von Voss accompanied the Queen on a journey to Hildburghausen. They first visited the King at Magdeburg, where manœuvres were taking place, then went to Cassel, and on June 3 from Cassel to Weimar. Heavy thunderstorms had damaged the roads, and they could only get on with difficulty; the Duke of Weimar had come to meet the Queen, and with some of the gentlemen of his household accompanied the Royal carriage on horseback.

From the top of a hill, called the Hohe-Sonne, the road went in a zigzag down a steep incline; this side of the hill is called the Schnecke, and the descent is considered dangerous. At the worst part the drag-chain broke, the carriage slipped forward, the Duke drew his sword and struck down the off-horse. The animal fell to the ground and stopped the carriage; the Queen was saved. The Duke threw himself from his horse, tore the door open, and lifted her in his arms from the still tottering carriage. The latter was indeed not necessary as the danger was over, but very natural in the Duke's terror at seeing the Queen in such peril. On the other side of the carriage rode a stalwart forester belonging to the hunting establishment of this stretch of woodland; as soon as he saw the Duke leap from his horse, he followed his example, opened the door on his side, seized upon the mistress of the household in spite of her vehement resistance, and lifted her out of the carriage. She, however, was not at all alarmed, and, little touched by this chivalry, said impatiently to the excited forester, who still held her in his arms, 'Fie, how you smell of tobacco!'

The daily life in the mistress of the household's apartments had a genial atmosphere of

homely kindness and cheerful good-nature that was wonderfully attractive, and involuntarily every one collected round her, and united to make her, in every respect, their centre of attraction. When her great-grandchildren at one time came up from the country, she was entirely the grandmother, and could not have the children enough with her. They often came to her at breakfast time; and when the hour arrived at which she went up to the King every day to receive his commands and to make her report concerning the Princesses, she would sometimes lead little Felix and his eldest sister by the hand into the King's room, with the words, 'I must show your Majesty my grandchildren once more;' and the good King thought this quite right, and received the children with his usual kindness and good-nature.

The King had bestowed special rank with the ribbon of the Black Eagle on the Countess, and the sentries had to present arms to her as to the Princesses of the Royal family. The great delight of the children now was to drive out with their grandmother, and especially to go through the Brandenburg gate and past the sentries, when she would laughingly say, 'Now, pay attention,

they are going to beat the drums.' Notwithstanding the straightforward simplicity of her character, she was very strict as to behaviour, good manners, and whatever was usual and proper in Court etiquette; and she considered watchfulness over this province as one of the duties of her position. On one occasion Princess Charlotte, who was then already grown up, came joyfully into her room to say that the King had allowed her to go out sleighing alone with her lady-in-waiting. 'I am very sorry, your Royal Highness, but this cannot be allowed,' answered the old Countess kindly; sent at once to the stables to desire that the sledge might not be brought round, and then went up to the King, respectfully to represent to him that a sledge with only one seat for the driver was only proper and permissible for the Princess if one of the Princes, or the Princess's master of the horse himself drove, but not with the coachman; and the good King thanked her, and said apologetically that he had not thought of that. And whoever offended against the proprieties in the Court circle was quite certain to hear of it; even a young foreign lady, who kept on her gloves during a great supper at Court, received a quiet message from the mistress of the household through a

footman, that she begged the young lady to take off her gloves. Towards the King, who was very fond of her and very indulgent towards her, her frankness and freedom of speech sometimes, perhaps, exceeded the bounds of custom. She made but small concessions to the changing fashions; tall, slight, and dignified in appearance, and to the last unbent and erect as a taper, the high-heeled shoes, the patches, and the powdered hair which she had worn from her youth were not unbecoming to her. She always continued to receive visits while sitting at her dressing-table to have her hair dressed and powdered, as had been the custom in the last century; and the King was in the habit of coming to see her at this time almost regularly before he went out, and conversing with those present. He amused himself then with teasing her large parrot in the ante-room, and came in one day very angrily complaining that the creature had bitten him severely, to which he received the unconcerned reply, ‘Your Majesty must have brought it upon yourself.’

One day they were driving out on some festive occasion, the King and Queen on the front seat of the carriage, the mistress of the household and one of the ladies-in-waiting opposite to them.

The King had been rather put out, was cross, and went on grumbling, while the poor Queen, who had had something to do with the matter, sat by him silent and distressed. The Countess could not bear to see her dear Queen distressed, and meeting just then a funeral, she looked at the coffin, and said to herself half aloud, ‘Happy man !’ ‘Why happy?’ asked the King, surprised. ‘He cannot hear,’ was the curt answer, and the King was silent.

But answers of this kind were only exceptional, and the old Countess’s invariable good-humour, her cheerful kindness and freshness of mind, made intercourse with her, who never had the least touch of sharpness or of depression, as enlivening as it was wholesome. She was very ready to talk of her past life, particularly of her journeys with the late Queen. Amongst others, she told an anecdote of the year 1808, when she was with the Queen at a little town in the neighbourhood of Königsberg, and the ladies of the principal nobility in the neighbourhood came to be presented. One of them asked if it was proper to wear diamonds on such a presentation. ‘Oh, certainly, wear all your jewels,’ answered the mistress of the household, very much pleased; ‘it

will be a comfort to Her Majesty that somebody should have preserved any ; we have not seen any for a long time.' General expectation. Every one is anxious to see the fortunate Frau von N——'s diamonds. The hour of the *déjeûner* strikes, the lady appears, and, to the general amusement, wears high above her head amongst her blonde locks a good-sized china stork, with two little diamond eyes.

The agitated life of the Countess indeed contained materials such as few others could offer, both for lively and serious recollections ; and her remarkable memory had forgotten nothing, but retained in the most life-like freshness whatever was worth remembering. Thus lived this remarkable and amiable woman, in the possession of all her mental powers at an age when others are only an object of care and attention to their relations, still in beneficent activity, and full of active goodwill in the discharge of her duties ; honoured and valued by her Sovereign and his whole house, envied by none, admired by many, and beloved by all, until a peaceful and happy death ended without pain or struggle her beautiful and most blessed life.

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